

# The bud of public space?

A Publicness study of the urban farm in the Netherlands



Master Thesis Spatial planning

Jiakun Wen



# Colophon

## **Title**

The bud of public space? A publicness study of the urban farm in the Netherlands

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# Preface

During my studies in the Netherlands, I have been always attracted by the urban farm in the Dutch cities. When you watch this special form of urban green, you can not only see the vegetation but also see the group of people work and social on it. Both of them compose a dynamic landscape in the city.

Can this dynamic landscape become a common form of public space in the future and let more people enjoy it? This is the initial motivation for my research. The common things we recognize today are recognized as new in history. When we look back to five hundred years ago, the café just started its life in the city, people may not think the place which sells the dark liquid would become a symbol of popular public space today. Therefore, it is also possible for us to prospect the urban farm to become a public space in the future. The first step is, by what kind of theory and methodology shall we examine this possibility? This is also what I want to discuss in this thesis.

During my research, first I should thank the people on the urban farm. These people show their maximum kindness to support my investigation, I could feel their willingness to share their experience and farm to more people, and also the challenges they face in this changeable and uncertain urban circumstance today. I identified myself not as a judge who holds labels and scores to stick on each farm and evaluate if they can be a public space, but as a humble explorer who knows nothing about the urban farm and would like to learn more from these wisdom people on the farm.

Last but not least, I should thank my supervisor Dr. Arend Jonkman, who has shown his maximum patience to guide me when I have been stuck during the research. He has inspired me many times when I trapped in my thinking chamber. And as a result, finally we reached the destination.

I hope you would like to explore with me together on this journey.  
Jiakun Wen

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# ABSTRACT

The urban farm is often concerned as a place of food production in the urban area. The farm can locate on the rooftop of the building or on a communal land of the neighborhoods. Beyond food production, it is also concerned as an important component of urban green. In the Netherlands, people use the urban farm not only for growing food but also use it as a space for social activities. This phenomenon brings a question: can urban farm be a new form of public space? This thesis aims to explore this possibility by carrying out a publicness study of the urban farms in the Netherlands. After criticizing the recent five publicness models, this thesis proposes a new dynamic publicness model to evaluate and analyze the publicness of urban farms in the Netherlands. This model concerns publicness has both static and dynamic characteristics. For its static characteristic, the model concerns the representation aspect of the publicness. For dynamic characteristics, the model concerns the mechanism behind the representation aspect of the publicness. It will guide explorative qualitative research. This research uses structured observation to collect the representation data of the urban farm and uses a semi-structured interview to explore the mechanism of the publicness. It is found that all the cases are opened to the public, but the level of publicness in each case is different. Some external factors such as short-term land use contracts and undesirable behaviours such as vandalism from the users can decrease the publicness level of the urban farm.

**Key words:** Urban Farm, Publicness, Dynamic Publicness Model

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# 1 A potential form of the urban public space

The title 'the bud of the public space' originates from the sound of 'the end of the public space' several public space studies: those studies have rung the bell that public space have been declining when confronted with a shrink of public financial support or a tendency of privatization of public space which has raised more social surveillance (Sorkin, 1992; Mitchell, 1995, 2016; Voyce, 2006; Madden, 2010). The 'bud' in this thesis which is contrary to the 'end' indicated that the public space does not step to the 'end' but has sprouted in the new soil, say, the soil of the urban farm.

When concerning urban farm as a supplement of the urban public space, this chapter first discussed why it can be concerned as a potential public space (Section 1.1). Then it introduced the fuzzy identification of the urban farm: although some urban farms have already been opened to the public, it is not recognized as a formal public space yet (Section 1.2). Thus, it is necessary to argue why these opened cases can be recognized as the public space. Although by current public space evaluation models (Van Melik, Van Aalst, and Van Weesep, 2007; Németh and Schmidt, 2010; Varna and Tiesdell, 2010; Langstraat and Van Melik, 2013; Santos Cruz and Pinho, 2019) and observation it is possible to evaluate whether these opened cases are the public space from the perspective of phenomenology, it is not sufficient to explain what enables the cases to be the public space. In another word, simply evaluate the current urban farms which open to the public from its representation aspect can only conclude that these farms can be the public space, but has less external validity and reference value to the large group of the other urban farms. Therefore, to explore the mechanism behind the phenomenon could bring a deeper cognition of why and how urban farm can be a potential form of the urban public space, and the conclusion can be applied not only to the current cases which opens to the public but also to analyze the cases which have not opened to the public yet.

## 1.1 Beyond food production

Urban agriculture, also called urban farming, is a form of agriculture in the cities (Contuse, van Vliet and Lenhart, 2018). Urban farm is not a newly arisen thing, in Europe, its history can be traced to medieval time that the households grow their own agricultural products within the walls in the town and city (Jacobs, 1969). Nowadays, Urban farm can be categorized into different types by economic activities, products, location and size. For example, the small nonprofits community garden farm and the large commercial institutional urban farm (Mougeot, 2000).

Beyond food production, urban agriculture provides other non-production-oriented function in urban areas such as landscape, recreation, education, and health service (Zasada, 2011). The growing activities in urban farm not only provide people food, the green space it created can also bring health and environmental benefit to people (Armstrong, 2000). The urban farm is also concerned as a recreational space for citizens to relax (Van Leeuwen et al., 2010). It enhances the

relationship between the urban dweller and their living environment (Thibert, 2012). It can play a similar function as green space such as park that providing urban landscape service to people and let citizens experience the 'nature' (Contuse, van Vliet and Lenhart, 2018). Some studies also point out the multiple functions urban farm could provide and realize that urban agriculture might contribute to the amount of urban public spaces in the urban area; others state that urban agriculture is supposed to provide a potential recreational function to people who live in the city and become a feasible opportunity to increase public space (Rogers and Hiner, 2016; Tóth and Timpe, 2017; Klimas and Lideika, 2018)

Urban agriculture is becoming a potential green infrastructure to support urban, diverse lives and activities (Contuse, van Vliet and Lenhart, 2018). In the Netherlands, the urban farm is emerging in popularity and producing food and created new urban landscape (van der Schans, 2010).

## 1.2 Fuzzy cognition

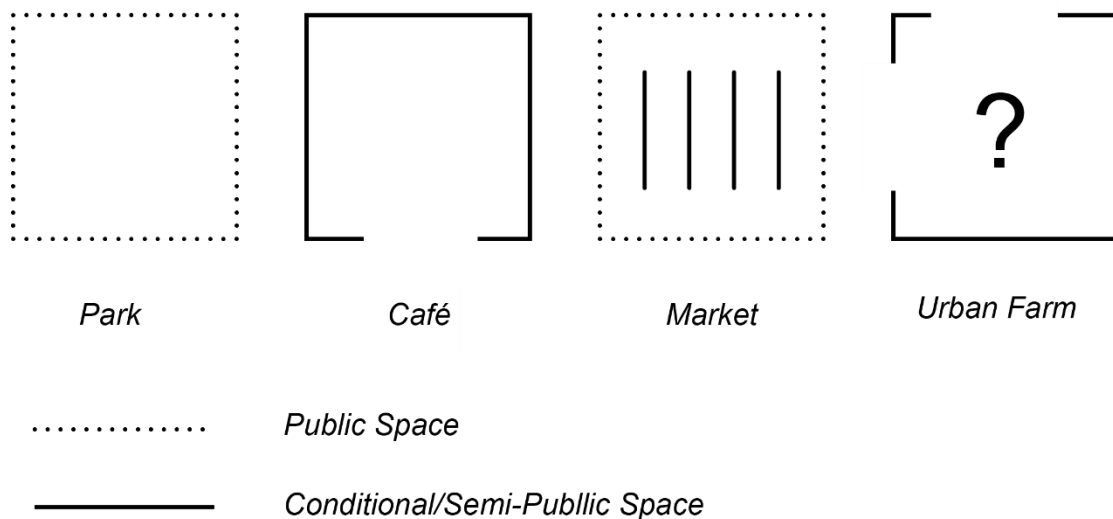
The author found the phenomenon that some urban farms in the Netherlands have already been practicing providing a social and public space service. The farms created a space for the neighbourhoods to relax and interact with each other. During the daily growing activities, people can meet each other more often and have a relative stably interaction. For some residents who lives in the flats and do not have the backyards, they also come to the urban farm so that they can take the growing activities. These urban farms provide a possible space for neighbourhoods to have a frequent and stable social interaction. The phenomenon shows the 'bud' of public space is coming out of the soil in the urban farm, but does anyone notice and qualify if this 'bud' is a public space?

Although urban farm may become an urban public space for the citizens, there is rare particular planning policy for it and in the Netherlands, most municipalities have no specific policy for urban agriculture (Contuse, van Vliet and Lenhart, 2018; Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu, Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport, 2019). According to a review of general regulations and rules which can be applied to urban agriculture provided by *Dutch ministry of health, wellness and sport*, the regulations, the policy covers 11 aspects including: "1. food safety, 2. water and waste, 3. trade, 4. use of space, 5. ownership, 6. labour, 7. tax, 8. Construction, 9. Flora and fauna, 10. Finance, 11. Liability" (Helmer et al., 2014). For 4. *Use of space* and 11. *Liability*, these two sections mentioned that urban farm is possible to have 'mix' function such as 'recreation' out of the farming function it claimed. Although there is no specific terms about how to recognize urban farm's recreational function in policy making and what role this farming space should play in the urban system (such as a public recreational space), the policy still shows a possibility that the urban could hold a public landscape and recreational function for dwellers in the city.

From both urban farm's own characteristics and policy's cognition, it seems that urban farm has the makings of being an urban public space for people. But it is still unknown what mechanism effects the urban farm to open to the public. For general public space, it is accessible to the



public and can provide space for multiple social activities, such as parks and squares. Different types of public space present different public characteristic to the users (Ekkel and de Vries, 2017). For example, parks and café or market all can be concerned as public space, but normally users have to consume in the café when they want to use this ‘public space’ as it follows a commercial pattern. Paralleled to the café or park, a question to the urban farm is: when concerning urban farm as a public space, what is the mechanism behind it? (Fig. 1) All the studies and policy quoted above have not given answer to the question.



*Fig. 1 illustration of different types of the public space*

Urban planning plays a considerable role in setting and designing the public infrastructure through policies and providing recreational and educational service to the public through the public space (Anguluri and Narayanan, 2017; Hostetler et al., 2011). If urban farms can be recognized as the public space from both the appearance and the core, then that would provide a theoretical foundation for these urban farms to obtain support such as subsidies and protection from policy so that they could survive and provide a stable service to the citizens. Therefore, it is necessary to set a research to investigate the representation of the opened urban farm and the mechanism behind it so that it could help the planning policy to concern and understand this potential form of the public space in the future.

### 1.3 Knowledge Gap

The research objective of this thesis is to find out the mechanism behind the urban farm when it represents as a public space. However, the current public space analysis models focus on illustrating the publicness features of the space from the perspective of phenomenology rather than discuss the inner mechanism behind the space representation (Van Melik, Van Aalst, and

Van Weeseep, 2007; Németh and Schmidt, 2010; Varna and Tiesdell, 2010; Langstraat and Van Melik, 2013; Santos Cruz and Pinho, 2019). The previous models present the publicness features individually but ignore the inner connection and structure exists among these features (the detailed introduction and reflection of these models are in next chapter). These models provided a sufficient foundation and evaluation perspective to answer the question of 'what' is publicness of the space: they offered the standard language to describe the quality and openness of the public space and presents the publicness characteristics of the space. But these models less focus on the 'why' and 'how': why the space present its features in this way not that way, and how can the space present it features in this way. Thus, to explain the mechanism of the space, it is necessary to establish a new analysis model which can present the structure behind the representation of the space.

## 1.4 Research Question

The research objective is to find out the mechanism behind the urban farm which opens to the public. And the knowledge gap above showed that to reach to this objective, the previous models cannot sufficiently explain the mechanism. Thus, a new explanatory model is needed to analyse the urban farm and describe the mechanism.

**The main research question: MRQ:** How is the publicness of the urban farm which opens to the public been shaped in the Netherlands?

### **The sub-questions:**

**SRQ1:** What is the model to describe the publicness and explain the mechanism behind it?

**SRQ2:** How does the urban farm which opens to the public present its publicness?

**SRQ3:** What is the mechanism behind this representation publicness?

## 2 The theoretical tool of publicness analysis

This chapter includes three parts: the introduction of the antecedent models (section 2.1), the reflection of these models and the new model (section 2.2) and the summary (section 2.3). The first section introduced the antecedent publicness models and discussed their merits and demerits. The second section discussed the 'juxtaposition fault' these models have and based on the reflection of these models, the it proposed a new model for this study.

### 2.1 The introduction of five publicness analysis models

There are five models to analyse the publicness of the space: the *cobweb model* (Van Melik, Van Aalst, and Van Weesep, 2007); the *tri-axal model* (Németh and Schmidt, 2010); the *star model* (Varna and Tiesdell, 2010); the *OMAI model* (Langstraat and Van Melik, 2013) and the *PEM model* (Santos Cruz and Pinho, 2019).

#### 2.1.1 The cobweb model

The first model is the *cobweb model* (Fig. 2), it has six dimensions: surveillance, restraints on loitering, regulation, events, funshopping and pavement cafes (Van Melik, Van Aalst, and Van Weesep, 2007). The dimensions reflect some characteristics of the public space. The model sets two groups: secured public space and themed public space. The first group relates to the control and regulation, and the second group relates to the public service. This distinguishing established a basic impression of the public space ---- despite the detailed dimensions, the main features of the public space is constituted by the power which restrain the degree of freedom and the power which facilitate the active degree. In this model, both powers shaped the publicness of the space. This tone of narrative of the publicness is inherited by several following publicness models.

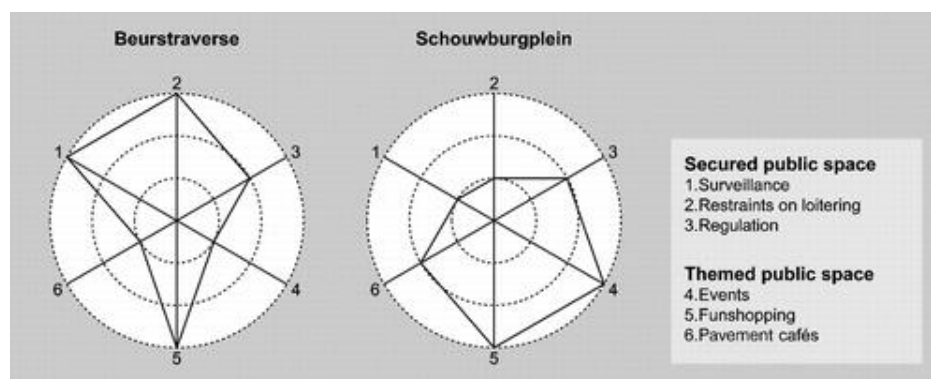


Fig. 2 Cobweb Model (Van Melik, Van Aalst, and Van Weesep, 2007)

One of the shortcoming of this model is about its illustration: the area described by each dimension is not independent, it is effected by its neighbourhood dimensions. If its

neighbourhood dimension has a high degree, then the dimension's area become larger (Varna and Tiesdell, 2010). However, if people focused on the score of each dimension rather than focused on the shape or area size then this model still has its value to describe the degree of publicness. In summary, this model provided a reasonable foundation of the publicness analysis which reflects the basic characteristic of two powers in the space: restraints and service.

### 2.1.2 The tri-axial model

Jeremy Nemeth and Stephen Schmidt developed public measuring tri-axial model (Fig. 3) including three aspects: ownership, management, and users (Németh and Schmidt, 2010). If compared with the cobweb model, the dimension of *management* relates to the *secured public space* in cobweb model which is about the restrain of the degree of freedom, and the dimension of *users* relates to the *themed public space* in cobweb model which is about the active degree. The new adding dimension is the *ownership* which increasing the main dimensions from two to three. As Langstraat and Van Melik (2013) said, the *ownership* reflect the characteristic of the space.

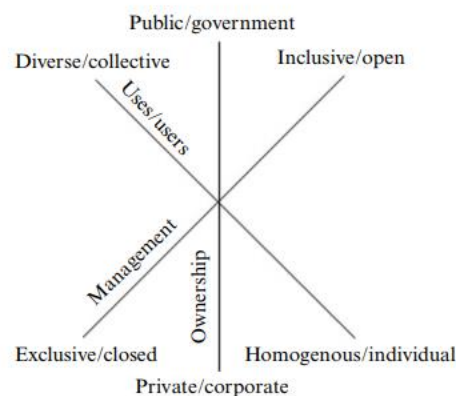


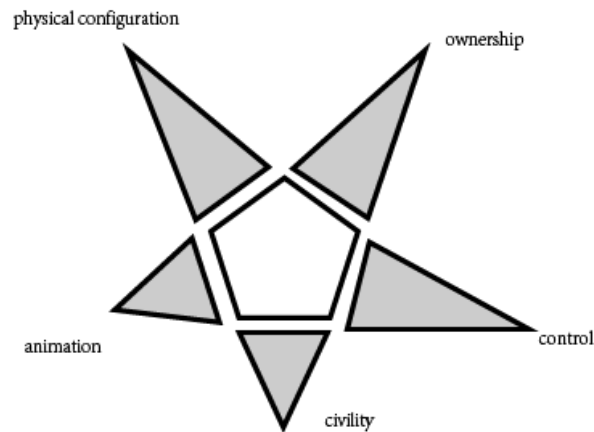
Fig.3 Tri-axial Model (Németh and Schmidt, 2011)

Langstraat and Van Melik (2013) pointed out that the limitation of this model is its limited dimensions according to its tri-axial structure. And this model has another problem: it cannot explain the meaning of the middle point which is the node of each pair of opposite variables, for example, public and private, the middle point cannot represent public nor private, thus people will argue what the middle point represents. In summary, the tri-axial model added a new dimension of *ownership* and this also became a fundamental dimension which is inherited by the following models, however, as the other people pointed out, the illustration of the publicness is not rigorous, which has the same type of flaw the cobweb model has.

### 2.1.3 The star model

Based on the criticising of the illustration flaw of the cobweb model and the tri-axial model, George Varna and Steve Tiesdell proposed a five-dimension model 'star model' (Fig. 4), it includes ownership, control, civility, animation and physical configuration (Varna and Tiesdell, 2010). The star model illustrates that in the middle area it is blank which avoids the 'middle point' problem

in the tri-axal model (Németh and Schmidt, 2010). And each limb is independent which avoids the ‘illustration area change’ due to the neighbourhood effect of each dimension in the cobweb model (Van Melik, Van Aalst, and Van Weesep, 2007). The advantage is each dimension only presents its own degree without effecting its neighbourhood area. It also has a visual intuition to show the publicness by the size of the limbs.

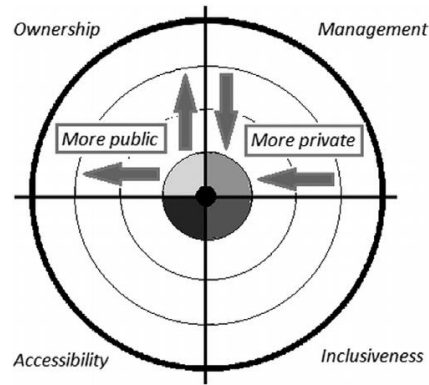


*Fig.4 Star model (Varna and Tiesdell, 2010)*

However, Langstraat and Van Melik (2013) said the shortcoming of this model is it lacks a “discrete scale” when people attempt to compare different outcomes. Despite this shortcoming, the model presents the more detailed dimensions such as physical configuration, civility and animation which makes the depicting of the publicness more explicit.

#### 2.1.4 The OMAI model

Based on critising the star model which does not have the ‘discrete scale’ for comparison, Langstraat and Van Melik (2013) developed the new model *OMAI model* which added the ‘scale’ (Fig. 5). It includes four dimensions: ownership, management, accessibility, and inclusiveness. The model changes the shape of star into a quartering pie chart, and the improvement is as Langstraat and Van Melik argued, the model equipped a concentric circles scale, which people can specifically compare different outcomes rather than an intuitive comparison. The chart shows the larger of the pie, the more public of the space.

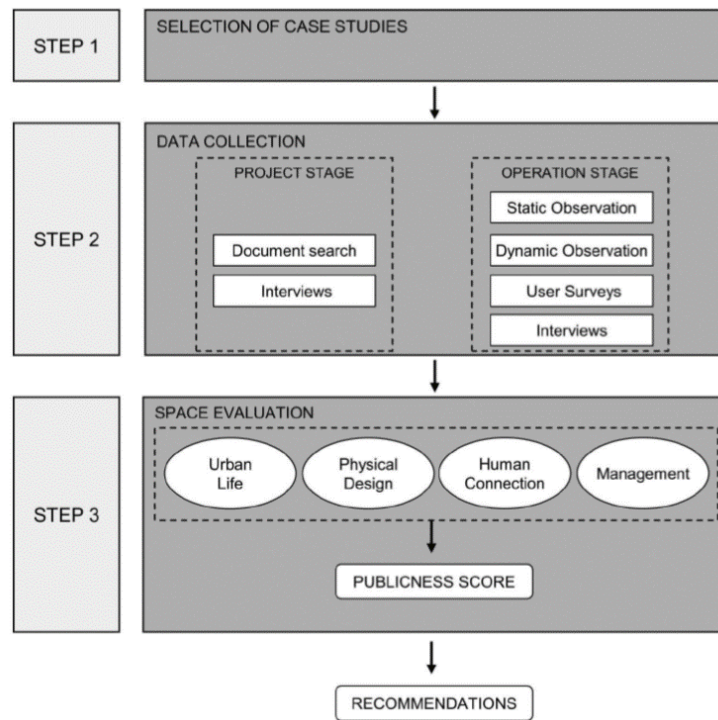


*Fig.5 OMAI model (Langstraat and Van Melik, 2013)*

This model emphasized the accessibility as an important dimension which standing by the other three dimensions existing in the previous models. This is a progress comparing to the previous model which not only focused on the space its own but concerning the accessibility outside the space and extended the content of the space publicness.

#### 2.1.5 The PEM model

In publicness evaluation model (PEM) model (Fig. 6), the model is divided into three steps and in step two it has two stages: project stage and operation stage, and in step three there are four dimensions: urban life, physical design, human connection and management (Santos Cruz and Pinho, 2019). This model presents the study process rather than simply shows the outcome of the publicness. And this model realized the publicness is not static but more dynamic. So, it uses both static observation and dynamic observation to depict the space publicness. The step three has the similar dimensions the previous models have such as management, physical aspect, and the urban life. The highlight point is the model added the dimension of 'Human connection' in the evaluation section. Adding this dimension made another progress comparing to the previous models that expand the vision not only on the space its own but also concerning the connection degree between the people and the space.



*Fig.6 Publicness evaluation model (PEM) (Santos Cruz and Pinho, 2019)*

Not like the other four models, the PEM model does not put its main attention to the illustration of the outcome, but more focus on the investigation process including the dynamic observation and interviews which attempts to depict a dynamic image of the publicness.

### 2.1.6 Summary

The five models provided the foundation of analyzing the space publicness. They proposed different dimensions such as management, control, and active degree to depict the features relate to the space publicness. Although each model has its shortcomings, a positive tendency can be witnessed that the following models attempted to correct the flaw the previous models have which made the depicting of the space publicness more comprehensive. Taking this stick from the antecedents, this thesis also reflected on the previous models and proposed a new model in the next section.

## 2.2 The reflection of the publicness models

The models above listed the features of the space which can be evaluated. However, there are still two confusions need to be answered: first, why these features can stand together? Second, why select these features? The following two sections discussed these two confusions respectively.

### 2.2.1 Juxtaposition fault

In the model 'OMAI', Langstraat and Van Melik (2013) discussed the other models and described each dimension of model 'OMAI'. They already realised the fault in the previous models and criticised the 'juxtaposition' problem in the previous models and took the 'star model' as an example: in star model, the dimension 'physical configuration' aims to represent the representation feature of the place rather than the result caused by physical configuration, therefore it is more relevant with the dimension such as management which is on the 'causation' side rather than on the 'consequence' side (Langstraat and Van Melik, 2013). In another words, *physical configuration* and *management* effect the other dimensions such as the *animation*, here physical configuration and management are causation, and the animation is the consequence. However, the model juxtaposes the 'causation' dimensions such as *management* and *physical configuration* and 'consequence' dimension such as *animation* on the same level and present all of them as the features of the publicness together.

This paper also found that the 'juxtaposition fault' exists through other models. The models above took 'ownership' as one essential dimension to describe the publicness. As Langstraat and Van Melik stated: "*ownership* is the most straightforward dimension to define; it refers to the legal status of a place" (Langstraat and Van Melik, 2013). However, when the publicness model is established, should it take the most 'straightforward dimension' in and make it stand by the other dimensions?

This paper accepted that ownership is one of the key concepts that affects the publicness of the space. But it is not a direct characteristic of publicness. For example, in the star model (Varna and Tiesdell, 2010), people cannot directly experience the '*ownership*' per se, they can perceive the *physical configuration* or *management* affected by '*ownership*'. *Ownership* is one factor which effects the *physical configuration* or *space control*. The other dimensions such as *physical configuration* is the representation, and '*ownership*' is an inherent attribute and reason behind the representation. As Langstraat and Van Melik (2013) mentioned above, the models put the 'causation' and the 'consequence' on the same level which have the juxtaposition fault. These models blurred the inner structure of which factor affects another and focus on what features the publicness description should have and make the model into a list of scores (Németh and Schmidt, 2010). The positive point of the model is it includes the features relate to the publicness description, while it does not make a specific intention to describe the relationship between each feature and thus brings an illusion that each feature is independent and can be juxtaposed together.

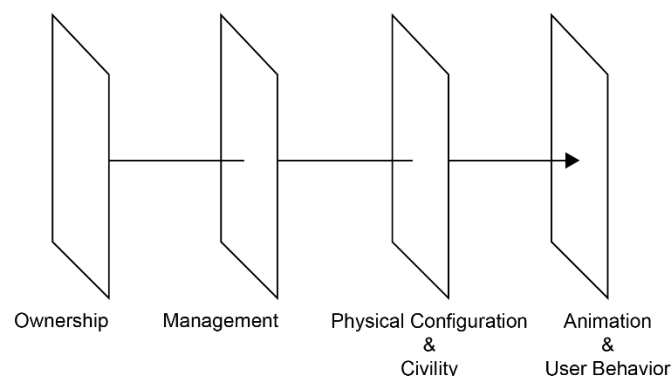
The juxtaposition is not all negative. It also reveals the intention that these models attempted to define or depict the 'publicness'. They intended to assemble the elements which related to the concept 'publicness' and try to exhaust the related elements so that it can depict the comprehensive image of what they think the 'publicness' should be. The value of the antecedent models is they created the tools for people to describe and compare the publicness of different place, and at least provided a foundation for the debate, as Varna and Tiesdell (2010) mentioned:



*“This is not, and cannot be, an exact science; judgements have to be made and can be debated, challenged and contested. This formation of the Star Model is thus offered as a proposition for debate.”*

The author accepted that there are multiple ways to define and depict the concept ‘publicness’, and there is no absolute ‘correct’ or ‘incorrect’ but ‘appropriate’ or ‘inappropriate’ according to the goal that people want to achieve. For the purpose of comparison of different space or debate, these models have been qualified to play their function as they claimed. However, for this study, the purpose is to study how urban farm present its publicness and the mechanism behind that presentation. The original intention or social issues is, how does the urban farm present its ‘publicness’ so that it can be a potential public space for citizens. Thus, it is necessary to review these elements in a structural way rather than a simple juxtaposition way.

This paper proposed that publicness is not only a static status which can be described by a static list of scores, but also a dynamic process which can be described in a dynamic way. It took the ‘star model’ (Varna and Tiesdell, 2010) as an example to explain the dynamic process of the publicness. In the *star model* there are five limbs: ownership, management, physical configuration, civility and animation. When checking these dimensions, it can be found that influences existing between each other (Varna and Tiesdell, 2010). The ownership influences how the space is managed, and the management shapes the physical configuration and civility. Both of them influences the animation and users (Fig. 7).



*Fig. 7 The ‘Star model’ as a process*

This dynamic process classified different dimension into different sections, and it does not follow the ‘juxtaposition way’ to present the features. It presents the structure of the publicness which can help to better understand the mechanism behind the representations.

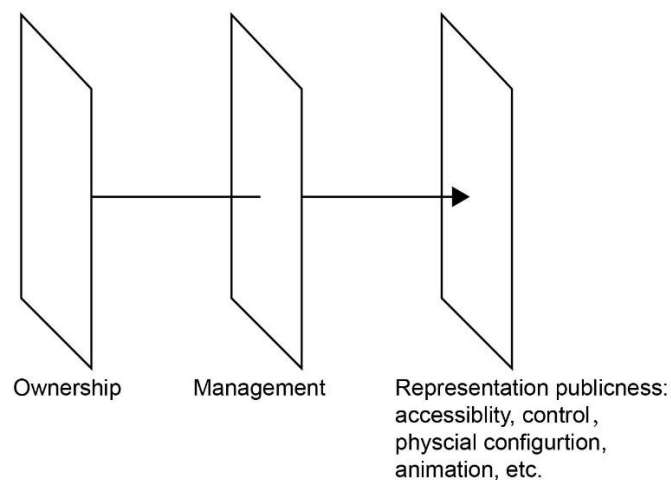
In summary, most models take ‘ownership’ and ‘management’ as the common components of the publicness. Based on different focuses, each model selected the other dimensions: *physical configuration, civility and animation* in ‘star model’ (Varna and Tiesdell, 2010); *accessibility and inclusiveness* in ‘OMAI model’ (Langstraat and Van Melik, 2013); *Human connection* in PEM model (Santos Cruz and Pinho, 2019). These models put all their components on the same level and juxtapose them together which brought ‘juxtaposition problem’ (Langstraat and Van Melik,

2013). The inner structure of each component is blurred. However, when applying the perspective of dynamic process to rebuild these components, it presents the structure of the publicness which can reflect the mechanism of the space publicness.

### 2.2.2 The publicness as a dynamic process

For the model in this paper, the author inherited the components provided in antecedent models such as ownership and management, but the components composed in a process-structure so that people can clearly see how each component influences the others. This modification reflects that publicness is not only a static status but also a dynamic process.

The initial model in this paper includes three section: ownership, management and representation section (Fig.8). The representation section corresponds to the dimensions which can be perceived by the users: 'surveillance', 'restraints on loitering', 'events', 'funshopping' and 'pavement cafe' in the cobweb model (Van Melik, Van Aalst, and Van Weesep, 2007); 'physical configuration', 'civility' and 'control' in 'star model' (Varna and Tiesdell, 2010) ; 'accessibility' and 'inclusiveness' in 'OMAI model' (Langstraat and Van Melik, 2013); 'urban life', 'physical design' and 'human connection' in PEM model (Santos Cruz and Pinho, 2019). The representation section directly interacts with the users. And the ownership is an inherent feature which affect the management of the space. The management affect how the space presents to the users.

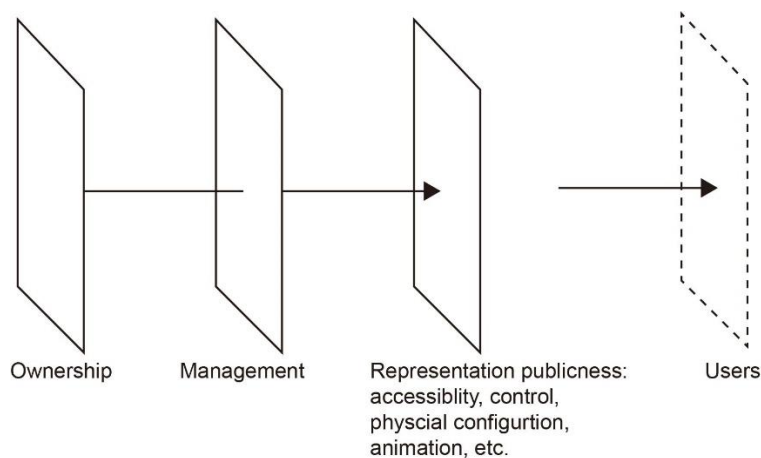


*Fig.8 The initial structured publicness model*

One point should be noticed is each section is not the only reason which affects the next. For example, the physical configuration in the representation section is not only decided by the management, it is also shaped by its congenital geographical factors such as location and surroundings.

Another important section is the 'users', it stands next to the representation section (Fig. 9), the user can be a participant which constitute the 'public life' or 'animation' in the representation section, or the user can be an observer outside the space which perceive the representation of

the publicness of the space. In summary, the users can perceive or interact with the representation publicness.



*Fig. 9 The users in the dynamic publicness model*

After adding the user section, this dynamic publicness model includes four sections: ownership, management, representation section and users. Each section can affect its next section. The representation section is the one which can be directly perceived by users. This thesis summarized the features in previous models such as physical configuration and accessibility which can be directly perceived by users and packed them in this representation section.

### 2.2.3 Moving on: the representation publicness as a process

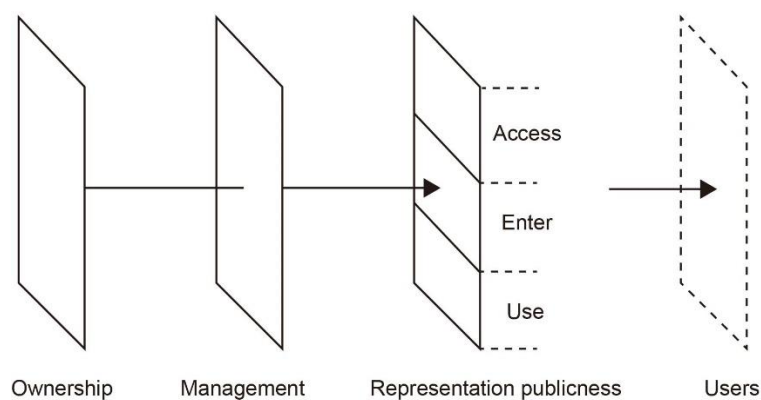
The main structure of the model is established, it presents the publicness as a dynamic process. Holding this process-thinking, the sections such as representation can be restructured as well. In the new model, the features such as physical configuration, control and animation are packed together which also have a juxtaposition tendency. From a common sense, users cannot perceive all these features immediately when they are standing in front of the space, there is an ordinal process for them to perceive these features. People may argue there is no necessary to look at the representation of the publicness from how the specific way the users perceive the space, the importance is to depict the comprehensive image of the publicness of the space itself. The reason that the author reviews these features of the space from a process-thinking rather than an omni-perspective is the purpose of this study is to explore the mechanism of the publicness rather than simply list the features of the space. Therefore, the author attempts to unfold the packed section as a process so that to detect the possible mechanism in these wrinkles. And the interaction process between the user and the space can provide an ordinal clue to arrange the features one by one.

For interaction process, this paper proposed one way to organize these features. It also needs to be noticed that users can be so different, and different users can have diverse perception of the same space (Németh and Schmidt, 2010; Langstraat and Van Melik, 2013). But as Németh and Schmidt(2010) said:

*“It implies that the research is inevitably partial. To construct a more robust model, however, we argue that some elements must be kept constant so that others may be explored.”*

Different users may focus on different elements, some users may be sensitive about the CCTV in the space while the others are more sensitive with the fence. But as Németh and Schmidt mentioned above, the important thing is to set several elements as the foundation so that others can be revealed further. This is “inevitably partial”, but at least providing “a proposition for debate” (Varna and Tiesdell, 2010).

Following this thinking, the author classified the process into three section: access, enter and use. This is classified by a general process of how users use the space. Access is about whether the space is accessible, it is about the possibilities of users to reach to the space. It relates to the location of the space and the surroundings which can create the obstacles for users to reach to the space. When users standing in front of the space, the next step is entering. Entering reflects the difficulty of users to enter the space. It relates to the boundaries, fence, wall, and the gate. Some privatized public space enhanced the threshold for the public to enter the space. When the users entered the space, the last evaluation step is ‘use’. Not like the former two steps, this step can be very diverse. It relates to the freedom of users in the space, and this freedom can be restricted by rules, the layout of the space, the managing people and also can be facilitated by amenities and animation.



*Fig. 10 The representation publicness in the model*

There are two advantages to arrange the representation publicness from perspective of interaction process: the first advantage is rather than the antecedent models which are not sure if they exhausted all the features of the publicness, from the interaction process perspective, the representation publicness can be exhausted from the beginning of the process to the end of the process. The unknown features may happen within each classified section(access, enter and use), but there is not any other unknow classified section which stand by access, enter and use as they three exhausted all the sub-processes of the whole interaction process.

The second advantage is it provided a clue or path of understanding these features which interact with the users. Rather than present all the features without order, a narrative line by interaction process between user and the space could better help readers to comprehend the initial intention of this publicness study as “space for people” rather than the space itself.

## 2.3 Summary

The chapter 2 discussed the existing publicness models and found that these models are not sufficient to respond to the research question about how the publicness of the urban farm been shaped in the Netherlands. To answers this question, it needs a new model which has a function of interpreting how publicness is shaped. After analyzing the antecedent models and based on the ‘juxtaposition fault’ pointed out by [Langstraat and Van Melik \(2013\)](#), the author proposed that the publicness is not only a static status but also a dynamic process. Each dimension or feature can affect the others. Based on this thinking, this paper designed a new publicness model which includes four sections: ownership, management, the representation publicness, and the users. Each section can affect its next section. But, of course, in the real world the relationship of these components are more complex than a linear process, but as [Németh and Schmidt \(2010\)](#) mentioned , although the model is “inevitably partial”, it offered some basic elements as a foundation that prepared the space for the further exploration.

The last part of the new model discussed the way of organizing the features in representation section. It followed the process thinking and taken a perspective of the interaction process to layout the features by access, enter and use. The interaction process could help to draw the publicness study back to the initial purpose of this study which is how can the urban farm become a new form of the public space which can be used by the public. This can anchor the study to think the purport of “space for people” rather than simply focus on the space itself. This also proposed that publicness is a concept which is defined and described through interaction rather than an inherent character of the space itself.

To the first sub research question, this chapter proposed a new publicness model which attempts to describe the publicness and the mechanism through a process thinking. The advantage of this new model is it unfolded the packed publicness features and revealed the potential relationship between each features of the publicness. It also briefly introduced the three aspects in the representation publicness. The operationalization of these three aspects in the representation publicness is introduced in the next chapter.

### 3 Operationalization of the representation publicness

This chapter focuses on the operationalization of the representation publicness in the new publicness model so that it can be applied in the field work. It operationalized the representation publicness as it is the direct part which can be sensed by the people. Based on the representation publicness, people can explore the effecting factors of the representation publicness such as the management or ownership.

#### 3.1 Access

The representation publicness has three parts: access, enter and use. The access referred to the *accessibility* in the study of [Langstraat and Van Melik \(2013\)](#) that is about the “physical connectivity of a public space”. Furthermore, in author’s opinion, the access is not only about the physical connectivity but also about the visual connectivity. Before people reach the space, people should sense the existing of the place first. The visual connectivity reflects the difficulty of noticing or finding the public space. If at beginning people cannot find the place, then the following process such as enter or use would not happen. Both visual connectivity and physical connectivity basically relate to the location of the space. The location includes the geographical information such as the surroundings and the physical connectivity with the city. The surroundings can obstacle people from seeing the space, and the physical connectivity with the city reflect the difficulty of people to reach the space.

One should be noticed is sometimes good connectivity can provide a good visual connectivity, thus a good physical connectivity includes a good visual connectivity. For example, the central park which is in the city center can be easily viewed by people (*Central Park in New York City*). But sometimes, although the space has a good physical connectivity with the city, it does not have a good visual connectivity. For example, a communal garden in the city center which is surrounded by the buildings (*The Begijnhof in Amsterdam*). It has a good physical connectivity with the city but has a low degree of visual connectivity. For this situation, it is necessary to separately discuss the visual connectivity and the physical connectivity. Therefore, for the operationalization of the access, it uses the location description which includes the surroundings and physical connectivity to present the access degree.

#### 3.2 Enter

When people reach the space, the next step is to enter the space. In the study of [Langstraat and Van Melik \(2013\)](#), the entrance is part of the *accessibility*. However, this study separated the access and enter into two sections. This is an unfolded operation: the purpose is to present the design of the boundary of the public space. As discussed above, the access relates to the location of the space, but the location does not fully reflect the willing of the managers who run the space, the location can be chosen by coincidence, historical factor, and economic factor or other land use policy. Therefore, in the access section the manager cannot select or has less power to

change the space's surroundings and road connectivity. The access reflects the 'nature' or 'ascribed status' of the space. But for 'enter' which relates to the boundary design of the space, it can be decided by the managers. Related to the 'enter', the boundary design can be classified into four basic types: soft boundary which has no fence (people can directly enter); hard boundary which has fence and entrance but no gate; hard boundary which has fence and entrance with gate (people need to ask for opening the gate); hard boundary which has fence and entrance with gate (not open to the public or it cannot open casually).

The classification also has exceptions. For example, the space has the fence and the entrance with gate, but the gate is always open in the daytime. Literally this space is the third type of boundary design as it has the gate, but substantially it equals to the second type in the daytime as it is keeping opened. This exception showed that the difference between the type II and type III actually is not about the 'gate', but about the entry control. For the type II it has no entry control but for the type III it has the entry control. Nevertheless, this classification is based on the design of the boundary thus it focuses on the physical elements. With gate and without gate reflect the two status of the control. For the fieldwork, it still checks the physical gate as it is the objective element and for the latter interpretation which about the control can be added as the supplement as it is subjective. This operation also reflects the model thinking of Németh and Schmidt (2010) that "some elements must be kept constant so that others may be explored".

### 3.3 Use

When people entered the space, they can use the space. Investigating how a space is used and perceived can more explicitly describe the actual publicness (Németh and Schmidt, 2010). The *more public* is the design supports and encourages use, and the *less public* is the design restricts and discourages use (Varna and Tiesdell, 2010). For example, the availability of the seating and lighting which provide a "welcome ambience" and the "absence of a control presence allows freer use of the space" (Varna and Tiesdell, 2010). There are similar dimensions which describing this status in previous models: 'animation' dimension in the *star model* described by Varna and Tiesdell (2010): "animation requires meeting human needs in public space."; the 'inclusiveness' dimension in the *OMAI model* described by Langstraat and Van Melik (2013): "inclusiveness is about the degree a place meets the demands of different individuals and groups." Carmona et al. (2003) described the five basic needs that people seek in public space: comfort, relaxation, passive engagement with the environment, active engagement with the environment and discovery. However, these needs are the general needs of people in the public space, the question is, what is the direct needs which tightly relates to the publicness?

In author's opinion, still following a process-thinking and deconstructing these needs into more elemental components, this paper proposed two basic needs in the space: the need of walking (moving) and the need of staying. Although this Binary classification looks very simple comparing to the studies above, it exhausted all the status the people can be in the space. The people in the space either move or stay, the process can only fall into one of these two status. The multiple needs above are abundant, but it does not exhaust all the needs hence it is incomplete from its

root. This paper repeated the thinking proposed by [Németh and Schmidt \(2010\)](#) several times: It is necessary to first build a solid foundation, based on this, then there are chances to explore the further complex and diverse situations.

People may doubt why moving and staying are the two needs relate to the publicness as in a private place people also have needs of moving and staying. The reason is when in a private space, the moving and staying of the private actors are on their own willingness, literally they are free in their own realm thus moving and staying are not problems in the private space. But in the public space, these two basic needs can be restricted and encouraged by the space design and control which reflects the control level, or in another words, people's use of the space can be affected by the other's willingness thus the space is less public. Another reason why this paper applies these two very elemental and 'conservative' needs is: if people's needs such as 'relax' or 'comfort' ([Carmona et al., 2003](#)) cannot be satisfied in the space is still debatable as different individuals have different cultures, backgrounds and perceptions ([Langstraat and Van Melik, 2013](#)), people may argue these needs describe the 'skin' of the publicness and cannot reflect the actual publicness. Then 'move' and 'stay' these very basic needs cannot be satisfied touched the 'bone' of the publicness because if even these basic needs cannot be satisfied, then there is no leeway for argument that the space is still 'public'.

Based on the argument above, the publicness within the space decided in what degree people can actualize these basic needs. This section is divided into four parts: the encourage of the move; the restriction of the move; the encourage of the stay; the restriction of the stay. The encourage of the move related to the moving system such as path or pavement which facilitates the moving and created the condition for users to reach as much as possible of the space. The restriction of the move is opposite, it restricts people to reach all the parts of the space, and it relates to the control and ban system. The encourage of the stay created the conditions for people to stay, it can be as small as a seat, a shed or as big as a square for group activity. It also can be the amenity such as washroom or vending machine. Even, a board writing 'stay and watch' which in psychological aspect also can create the condition for people to stay. The restriction of the stay can present in two ways: one is directly restrict the stay, such as the opening time control, or set rules for a conditional stay (such as membership), or even against the stay which [Flusty \(1997\)](#) called 'prickly space'; the other way is providing less facilities for people to stay, such as less seats which makes the space 'unsittable' ([Whyte, 1988](#)) and no space for group activity.

One should be noticed is not all the control are against the 'public'. The control, as [Varna and Tiesdell \(2010\)](#) said: "...protect the people rather than the property, from harm" which is enacted in the wider public interest, is not against the 'public'. For example, the board of 'do no pick the flowers' is a sign of control, if everybody picks the flowers, then later nobody can see the flowers which leads to a 'tragedy of the commons' ([Hardin, 1968](#)). But it is important to accept a fact that sometimes it is ambiguous to distinguish whether the control is for the public or against the public and it needs a further discussion depending on the specific empirical work.



## 4 Research Design

The research question in this study is “How is the publicness of the urban farm which opens to the public been shaped in the Netherlands?”. To answer this question, this research followed a ‘qualitative-quantitative-qualitative’ approach as [Kumar \(2014, pp133\)](#) recommended:

*“The qualitative-quantitative-qualitative approach to research is comprehensive and worth consideration. This involves starting with qualitative methods to determine the spread of diversity, using quantitative methods to quantify the spread, and then going back to qualitative to explain the observed patterns.”*

This study first applied the qualitative approach to discuss the publicness models and operationalization (**SRQ1**) as “*determine the spread of the diversity*”; Then it investigated how these urban farms present their publicness in a quantitative approach (**SRQ2**) by observation in the field. The representation publicness in the new model guided the field observation as “*using quantitative methods to quantify the spread*”; in the end it explored the possible mechanism behind the representation publicness (**SRQ3**) as “*going back to qualitative to explain the observed patterns*”.

The advantage of the approach is it does not lock the study into either qualitative or quantitative paradigm ([Kumar, 2014, pp134](#)). In this study, first it applied the qualitative approach to deduct the elemental foundation of the publicness model. This step is for the situation that the nature of diversity in the previous studies is not clear ([Kumar, 2014, pp134](#)), thus it is necessary to clarify what are involved in the research. Then the data of representation publicness of the urban farm is collected in a “specific, structured, explicitly defined and recognised” way based on the first step. In this study, this quantitative approach collected the nominal data such as the location (access) and ordinal data (access, enter and use) of the representation publicness based on the case selected in the Netherlands. The quantitative study created a foundation for the following qualitative investigation. In the last qualitative approach, the interviews were applied to help interpret the findings of the urban farm’s representation publicness.

### 4.1 The respondents: urban farms opened to the public

The respondents in this study is the urban farms in the Netherlands which open themselves to the public. This study focused on three cases in Den Haag and five case in Rotterdam. The selection is as follows. First it searched the urban farms in the Netherlands through internet using search terms such as ‘urban farm’ and ‘Stads landbouw’. Then it checked the searching consequences if the farm opens to the public by terms such as “welcome”, “Visit” and “Opening time”(the study searched the terms both in Dutch and English). Then it attempted to select these cases in a wide diversity within a limited number as the research time restriction. The ideal result is each case can represent one featured type of the urban farm and has a difference with the others so that they can compose a diverse spectrum of the urban farms. Based on this principle,

the study first found three cases in Rotterdam and two cases in the Haag. Then during the field work by the snowballing approach, this study found the other two types of urban farms in Rotterdam and one in Den Haag. The snowballing approach is very efficient to find the farms which opens to the public as the known farms opening to the public know several other farms which open to the public (online searching has an limitation as some farms do not have the websites). At the end in total there are eight cases in Rotterdam and Den Haag. There are two main types of the farms: profit and non-profit. For profit group, one is a rooftop restaurant farm and the other one is a street herb garden farm. For non-profit group there are six types found in this study: street corner farm, farm in the unused industrial area, farm in the unused urban infrastructure (abandoned station) and neighborhood farms. The neighborhood farms have three detailed types: the farm by the street semi-surrounded by the apartments, the farm completely surrounded by the apartments and the farm in a community (main buildings are houses with independent backyards).

People may doubt why the focus is on the city Den Haag and Rotterdam not the other cities such as Amsterdam or Utrecht. The main reason is the qualified cases found in this study (as diverse as possible meanwhile open to the public) is not enough within one city, therefore two or more cities can provide the enough cases. However, different cities such as Amsterdam and Utrecht, or Amsterdam and Den Haag, which in different provinces may have differences in the environment, policy, and geographical features. To control the environment so that to prevent the fluctuant external factors and focus on the internal mechanism in each case, the combination of Den Haag and Rotterdam is a compromise concerning they can provide enough qualified cases meanwhile their geographical locations are close and are in the same province comparing to other combination of cities. This environmental control has an advantage, for example, if case A and case B within one region presents different publicness, then the study can focus on the comparison of these two cases themselves so that to dig out the internal mechanism which caused these differences. However, if case A and case B are in different regions, then the interpretation splits into two situations: one is the difference of the region(external factors) which caused the difference of the publicness, the other is the difference of the internal factors which caused the difference of the publicness. This will lead to a confusion that the study is not sure either the first situation or the second situation caused the difference of the publicness. As [Németh and Schmidt \(2010\)](#) argued: “...attempt to do *everything* well often fail to do *anything* well.” Thus, this study attempted to control the regional factors so that it can focus more on the case itself. And the effect of the different regions can be studied in the future.

## 4.2 The data collection

There are two types of data collected in this study: observation data and interview data. The observation data recorded the publicness manifestation of the farm which had been used to answer the question ‘how does the urban farm presents its publicness’ (SRQ2). The interview data with the people who managed the farm recorded how and why they manipulate this manifestation of the farm which had been used to answer the question ‘what is the mechanism

behind the representation publicness' (SRQ3). The procedure of the collection of the observation data is as follows.

### **Observation Data**

Firstly, it collected the data of 'access' in the manifestation publicness. It includes visual connectivity and the physical connectivity. The visual connectivity describes whether the farm can be seen from the outside public area. This shows whether the farm can present itself to the public. If people from the public area cannot see the farm, then the farm has less visual connectivity with the public. The physical connectivity describes the typical 'accessibility' (Langstraat and Van Melik, 2013). It checks whether the farm is well connected with the road system and also checks the condition of the connectivity such as "the connection is a formal path or informal path". Secondly it collected the data of 'enter'. It checks two elements: fence and gate. The data records the detailed description such as material and visual penetrability of them more than whether the farm has fence or gate. Thirdly, it collected the data of 'use'. Under the category of 'move' and 'stay', the data includes the pavement, accessibility of the whole space, ban system, sitting place, social and activity space, and amenity. The data was collected by the author independently in the eight urban farms. The collection procedure followed the ordinal process "access, enter and use". The result of the field observation is in the chapter 5.

### **Interview Data**

The main interviewees are the people who manage the farm or who play the role of set, maintain, and change the manifestation of the urban farm. Based on the *dynamic publicness model* proposed in the end of Chapter 2, the representation publicness is affected directly by the management of the urban farm. Therefore, interviewing the respondents who manage the farm could help people to understand "why the manifestation publicness presents in this way not that way" or "why the manifestation publicness changed" thus to reveal the mechanism behind the representation publicness (SRQ3).

Based on the field observation, the author had selected four representative urban farms to make interview. The selection first concerned two main types of the urban farm: profit and non-profit. It selected one from the two profit urban farms in this study. Then it selected three from the six non-profit type urban farm based on different location and environment: farm on a street corner, farm in a neighborhood and farm in a community. These four cases reflect the different components of the management board. For the management board of the profit urban farm, it is constituted by private actors who own the farm. For the management board of the farm on the street corner, it is constituted by the volunteers from the whole city. For the management board of the farm in a neighborhood, it is mainly constituted by the people who live in the neighborhood area. For the urban farm in the community, it is both managed by the volunteer who live in the community and the community center (Wijkcentrum).

There overview of the six interviewees on the farm are: one manager of the profit urban farm; one manager of the farm in the community; one manager and one volunteer of the farm in the

street corner; one manager and one volunteer of the farm in the neighborhoods. There are two supplemental interviewees: one is the people of the urban farm project (Stadslandbouw) in the municipality, the other is the people of the non-government consultant institution for the urban farm project. Although these two interviewees are not from the management board, as the external actors, they can also tell what support and restriction the management board can receive thus to comprehensively understand the forces which shaped the representation publicness.

### 4.3 The data analysis

The analysis of the observation data has two dimensions. First dimension is the analysis within each case to find out the relationship between each component in the observation process. The second dimension is the horizontal comparison of the components in each case so that to find the similarities and differences.

The analysis of the interview data aims to dig the force or power which shaped the representation publicness. It mainly focused on the 'reason' of the manipulation of the representation publicness. It can help to clarify the mechanism behind the representation publicness.

### 4.4 Ethics

This study applied the anonymity to protect the privacy of the respondents thus the names of people or farms are not published in this paper. Although the outcome in this research presented the status of each urban farm, readers may misunderstand the outcome as the 'publicness judgement' of the cases. As chapter 2 and chapter 3 stated, the approach this paper applied was novelly established, thus it is an experimental approach to study the urban farms. Not like the previous publicness studies which published the place names as the approaches they used are mature and tested by different researchers (Van Melik, Van Aalst, and Van Weesep, 2007; Németh and Schmidt, 2010; Varna and Tiesdell, 2010; Langstraat and Van Melik, 2013; Santos Cruz and Pinho, 2019), the novel approach in this study is its first time thus it may have systematic flaw which brings the outcome not 'justice'. And this may have a potential impact on the urban farm when they have a 'score sticker'. The research should minimize the effect on the respondents after the study, thus the names in this study are anonymous.

## 5 The findings

There are two main parts in this chapter, first it describes the findings in each farm by eight narrative lines. Then it brought the horizontal comparison of different farms to discuss the similarities and differences in the representation publicness. The third part discussed the mechanism behind the publicness of the farm. For anonymous reason, the name of the farm is coded alphabetically.

### 5.1 The observation findings: access, enter and use

Before starting the case description, it is necessary to explain the elements in the charts.

#### **Visual Access**

The shadow shows the area which people can see the farm on the ground level. The circle is a reference to present the distance and to show how far the farm can be seen by the people. The shadow size is based on the field work observed by the researcher. The red dot frame shows the area which people can see the farm above the ground level, such as on a bridge or higher platform.

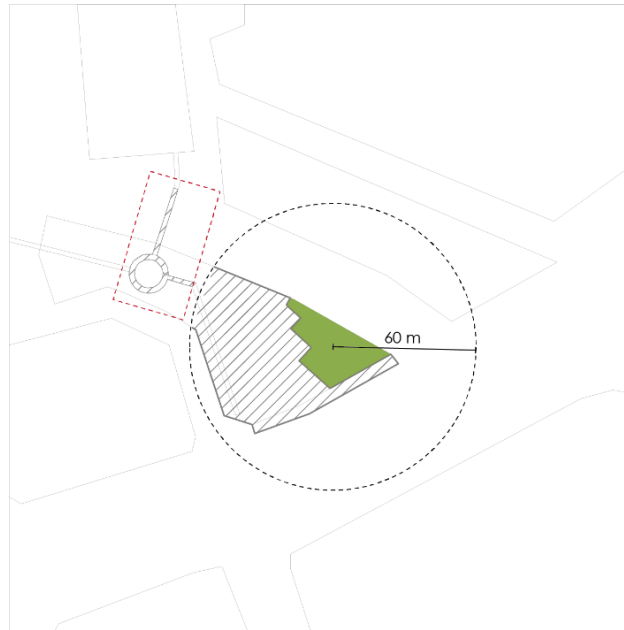
#### **Physical Access**

The blue line shows the main traffic flow includes automobile, cyclist, and pedestrian. The red dot line shows the path connecting the main traffic flow and the farm.

#### **Enter**

The bottom model shows the morphological surroundings of the farm, the middle line model shows the shape of the fence. The top line illustration shows the location of the entrance by the thick blue line.

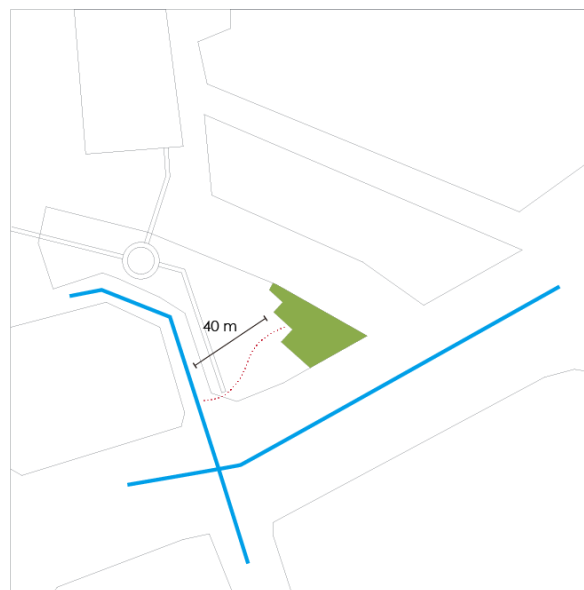
## Farm A



*Fig. 11 The visual access of urban farm A*

## Visual access

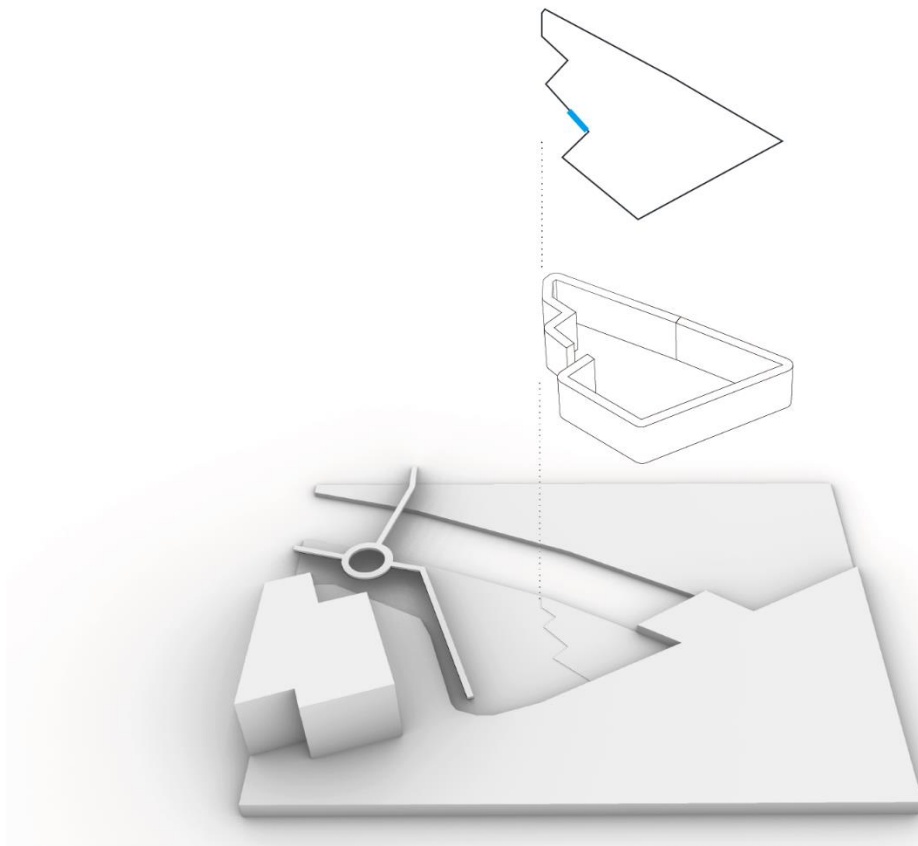
People can see the farm from the square in front of it. Due to the traffic and other construction obstacles, the farm has less visual access from its east side. However, from a further distance people can still see the farm on a pedestrian bridge.



*Fig. 12 The physical access of urban farm A*

## Physical Access

The farm locates close to the traffic flow, but there is still a distance of 40 meters between the flow and the farm. People can walk to the farm from the main traffic flows.



*Fig. 13 The surroundings and fence of urban farm A*

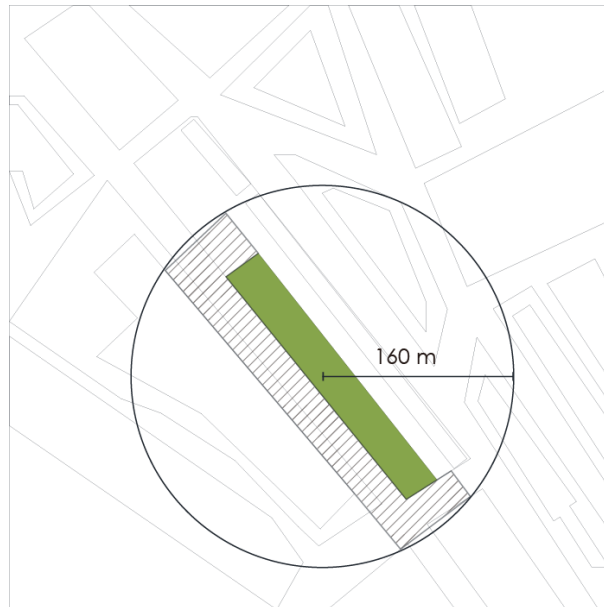
### **Enter and Use**

The triangle-shape farm F locates by the railway. During the investigation period, the farm F has an interesting changing: in the beginning the researcher observed the farm has no gate control and people can freely enter the farm, however, one month later when researcher went to the farm again, the farm set a gate with a locker. The farm locates at a corner of a square which is also connected by the pedestrian yellow bridge. The farm is surrounded by the 2 meters-high shrub walls, and people can hardly pass through them. The only entrance is facing to the square. In the beginning, there was no gate control so visitors can freely enter the farm. After one month a gate with locker was set and people can only enter the farm when the volunteers are in the farm. Visitors can see the farm when they stand by the entrance. By the south of the farm there is a road which is higher than the farm, pedestrians can have a whole view of the farm when they pass by. The farm also has two main parts: cultivation area and non-cultivation area. In the cultivation area normally only the volunteers who work on the farm can enter as there is no path

prepared for visitors, but the visitors can still step into the area on the soil. In the non-cultivation area, there is a long table prepared for volunteers and visitors to drink and eat. When the sunshine is strong, a sunshade will open to cover the table. Outside the farm there is a big container belongs to the farm with kitchen which people can prepare food and drinks, tools are also stored in the container. In the beginning, the farm F is similar to farm E that people can freely enter the farm even when the volunteers are not on the farm. During that period, there is no control on the farm. After the gate setting a locker, visitors can only enter the farm when volunteers are on the farm, and when visitors enter the farm the volunteers will talk to them and let them walk around. The main facility is the long table with benches that for people to rest. Volunteers will bring food and tea to the table and share with others. After the day work finished, they will put the harvest on the table and give them to the volunteers and even to the visitors. As discussed in physical configuration, a small kitchen in the container could prepare food and make hot water for people.



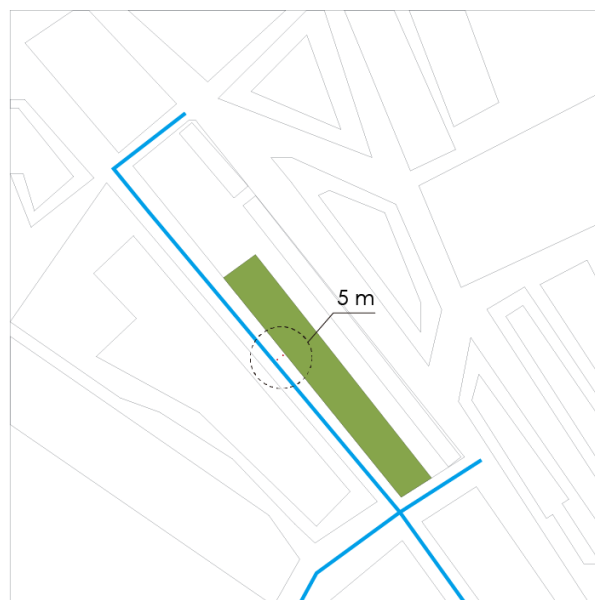
## Farm B



*Fig. 14 The visual access of urban farm B*

## Visual Access

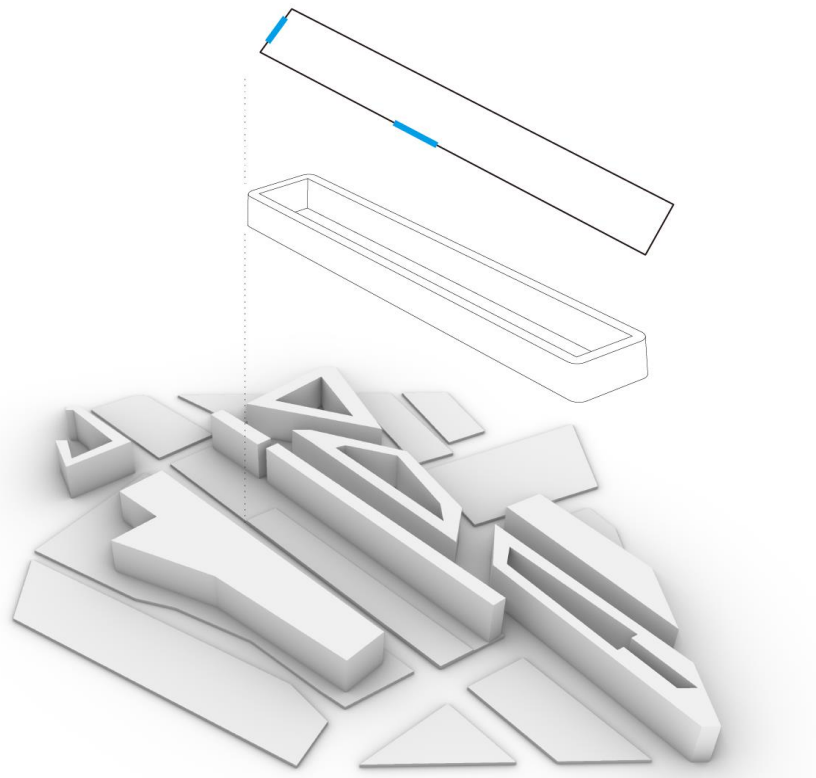
The farm locates by the street and people can see the farm from the street without any obstacles. On the east side, the visual access is blocked by the buildings.



*Fig. 15 The physical access of urban farm B*

## Physical access

The farm stands by the street thus people can access the farm without any extra walking.



*Fig. 16 The surroundings and fence of urban farm B*

### **Enter and Use**

The farm stands close to the traffic flows. On its west side is the main road and on the east side is the residential area. The farm is surrounded by the iron fence and there are two entrances. People can see the farm from outside and enter the farm freely. The farm has an opening time every day and out of the time the gate is locked and people cannot enter the farm. At the entrance there is a welcoming board to show what service the farm provides. As the previous farms, the farm has cultivation area and non-cultivation area. The cultivation area is separated into small plots and between each plot there are paved path so that visitors can walk and watch the vegetations. In the non-cultivation area there are two buildings, one is the shop which sells the products from the farm and the other is a glass hall which people can organize party or meal in it. The shop is close to one of the entrances and the owner normally stay in the shop and can

see outside through the window. There is an opening time board the entrance of the farm which shows a time control. The other controls are the owner, employees or volunteers on the farm. People in the shop can see the farm through the window. When people passed the entrance, sometimes they will have an interaction with the owner or employees who is in the shop. But this interaction is not compulsory, people still can freely walk in the farm without any interaction.

This farm has diverse amenities. There are several benches setting in the cultivation area. In front of the shop there are tables and chairs for people who want to order food or drinks from the shop. The shop also sells agricultural products. In the back of the shop is a toilet for visitors. Cultivation area set the swing for children. And for the glass hall, visitors can book the hall for meeting or party.

## Farm C



*Fig. 17 The visual access of urban farm C*

## Visual Access

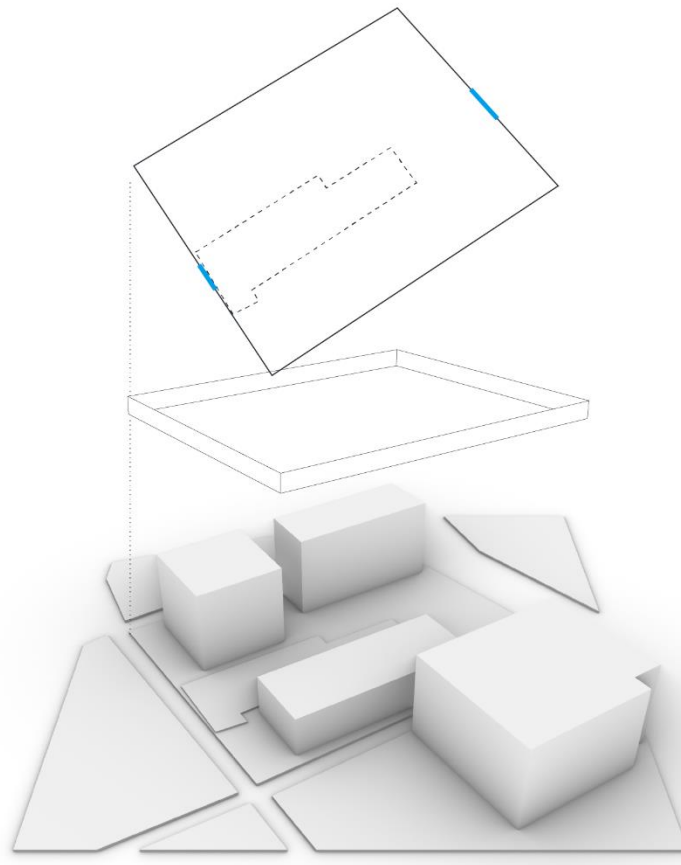
The farm locates in an industry area and it is surrounded by the buildings. The farm stands by one side of the area close to one road, thus people can see the farm when they pass by it. But for the other sides of the farm, people has to first enter the area and then they can see it.



*Fig. 18 The physical access of urban farm C*

## Physical Access

The farm has both sides connecting to the traffic flows. On one side it stands by the flows and on the other side people need to walk a distance about 90 meters from the area out of the factory area.



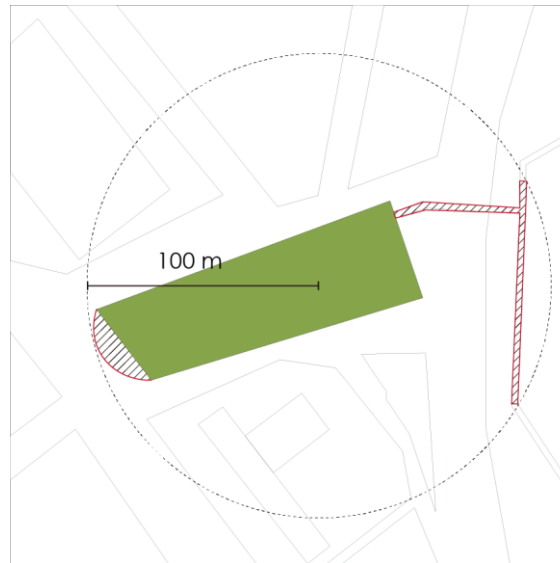
*Fig. 19 The surroundings and fence of urban farm C*

## Enter and Use

The farm locates close to the harbour. It is surrounded by old warehouse and factories. A three meters width road connected the north and south sides of the farm. The farm locates in the warehouse area and itself is not fenced, however the whole warehouse area is fenced, but normally there is no gate control of the warehouse area so people still can enter freely. People can enter the farm through the road entrance on the south and north sides and also go into the farm by small paths on the other sides of the farm. The farm area constitutes by three components: the road, cultivation area and non-cultivation area. A series cultivation area is well designed into concentric circles that allow the visitors to walk between each cultivation circle. In the middle of the circles are small public space for people to rest and have activities. Researcher also witnessed the people walking their dog and jogging on the farm road. There is no specific

control on the farm, people can walk and rest on the farm even when the volunteers or employees are not there. However, during the field investigation, the researcher witnessed a group of unidentified people who occupied one corner of the farm and shout to the pedestrians and the pedestrians ignored their shouting. There are benches for about 20 people to sit. A pavilion covered by plants which can contain 5-6 people stay inside. On the east side of the farm there is parking place for bicycles.

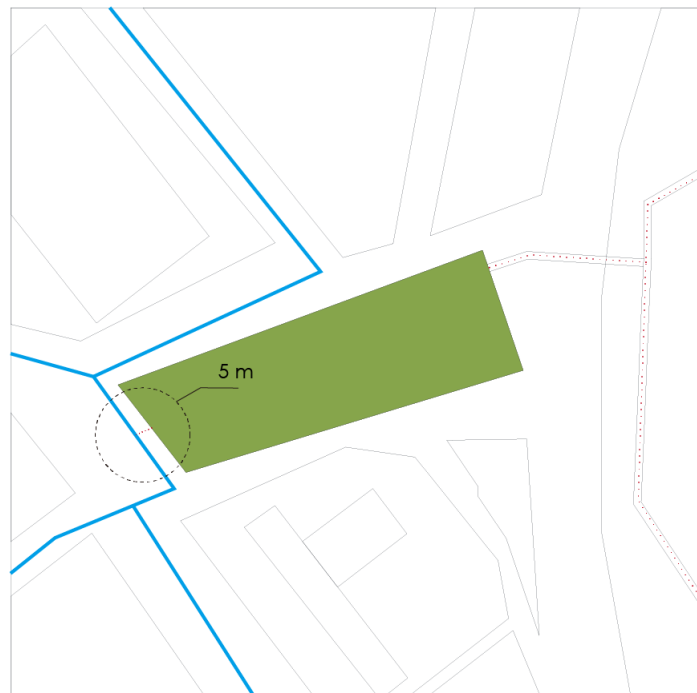
## Farm D



*Fig. 20 The visual access of urban farm D*

## Visual Access

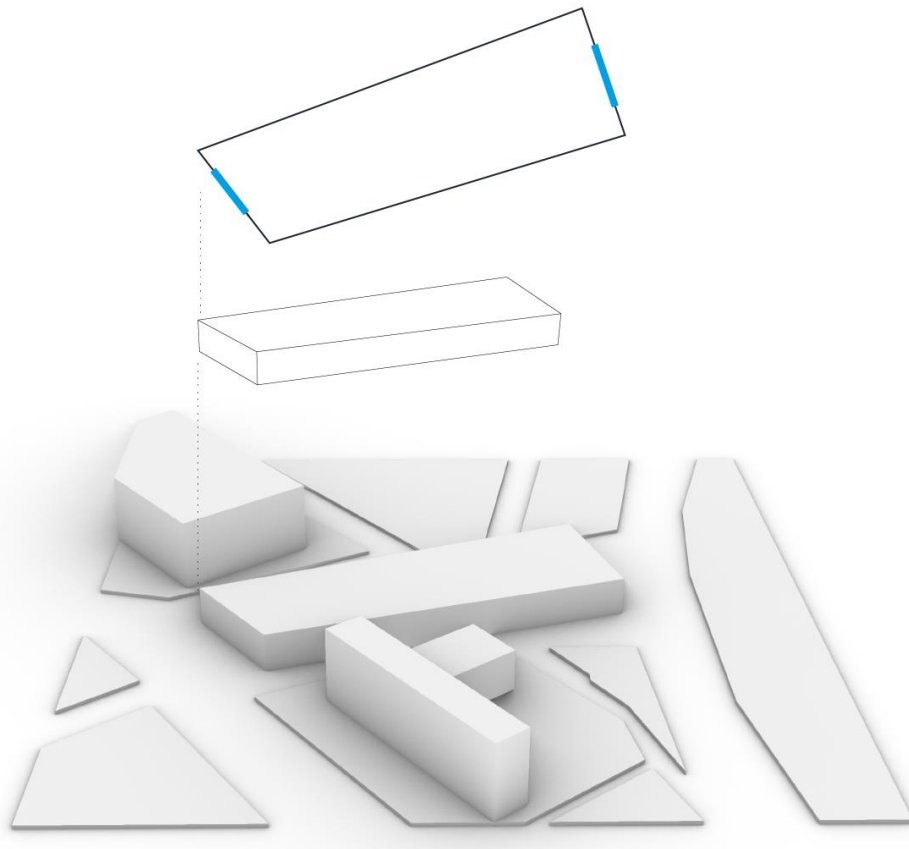
The farm locates on a platform above the ground level. People can see the farm when they stand on the higher place such as the pedestrian bridge showed on the right of the picture. The shadow on the left is the stairs area which also enable people to see the farm when they stand on the stairs.



*Fig. 21 The physical access of urban farm D*

## Physical Access

The farm locates close to the traffic flow, thus people does not need an extra walk to the farm when they get off the road. On the other side of the farm, there is a pedestrian bridge connecting the farm which provide one more way to access the farm.



*Fig. 22 The surroundings and fence of urban farm D*

## Enter and Use

The farm locates on an abandoned train station which is over the ground. People can only access it through two entrances showed on the map by stairs and pedestrian bridge. The farm locates at a platform of an old train station; therefore, it is higher than the ground level and people from ground cannot see the farm. There are two entrances on the opposite sides of the farm. One is connected with the street by stairs and the other is connected by the pedestrian yellow bridge. From the outside of the entrance people can see the whole farm, thus the view is not blocked. There are metal fences surrounding the farm that when the entrances are locked, people cannot enter the farm. For this farm, there are also two main parts: the cultivation area and Non-

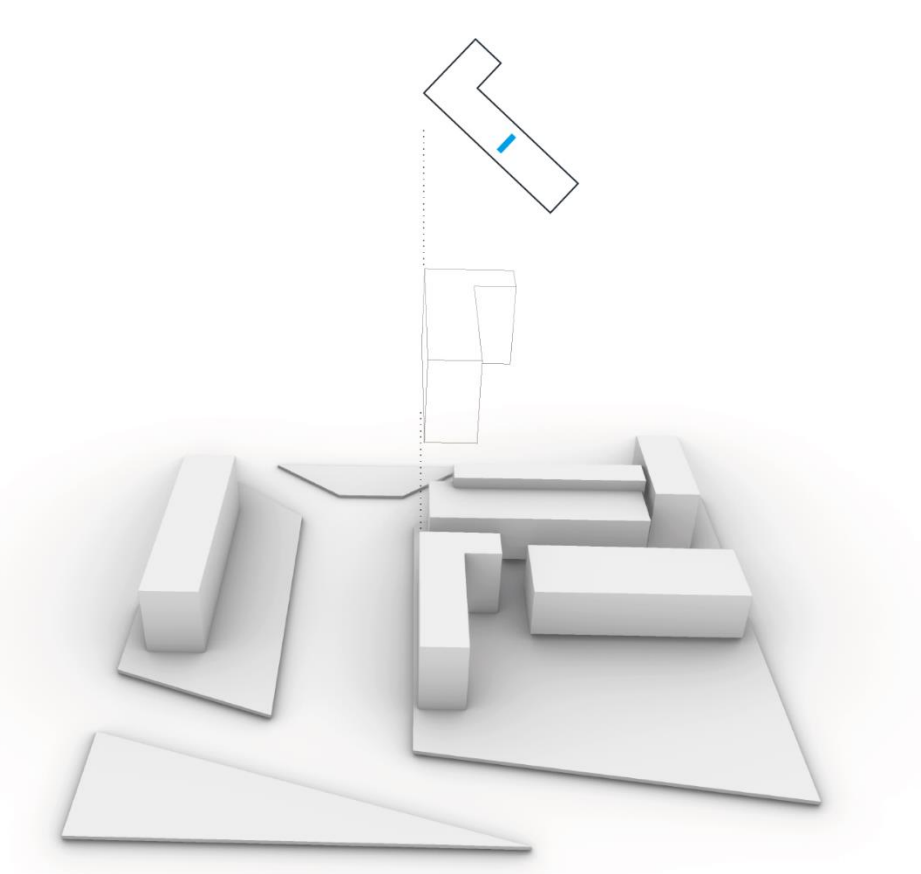


cultivation area. In the non-cultivation area, the long shed which designed for the train station was transformed into a public space which people can rest and have activities under it. Some part of the non-cultivation area is paved by blue soft rubber which allows people to sit and lay on it. People can freely enter the cultivation area and have a close touch with the growing. Some tables and chairs are also set in the cultivation field that people can even sit surrounded by the plants. At the entrance of the farm, the information board written that the following things are not allowed: pets, BBQ, loud music. People should throw trash in the trash bin and the cameras are watching the whole area. Another control are the boards in front of the fields that stop people to trample the low vegetations. Except Tuesday from 11.00 to 14.00 that people will work on the farm, the other time few people from the farm present and there is no potential 'control'. There are different types of sitting places for more than 50 people (bench, chair and rubber-paved stages). In the cultivation area, the benches are accompanied with table so that people can eat and drink surrounded by the plants. When the weather is good, visitors can even sleep in the farm. There is one facility which the other farms do not have----a drinking tap for visitors. The tap is set by the road in the cultivation area. In front of different vegetation there are also name boards show what plant it is.



## Physical Access

Although the building is close to the traffic flow, people still need to climb about 7 floors to the top of the building. The elevator is also available which make it easier for visitors to access the farm.



*Fig. 25 The surroundings and fence of urban farm E*

## Enter and Use

The farm is a rooftop farm and locates near the railway. The entrance is on the ground floor and people can take elevator or stairs to the rooftop farm. The farm is on the roof of a seven-floor building, and the entrance is on the ground floor. Although people cannot see the farm on the ground floor, they can see the introduction board about the farm. People can take stairs or elevator to go to the top of the building, along the stairs there are signs showing up to the farm. The urban farm consists two parts: the non-cultivation area including the restaurant and the cultivation area. When entering the farm, first people have to go through the restaurant and then reach to the cultivation area. Normally the cultivation area is not opened so people cannot enter this area, but people can still watch the vegetations while they are eating or drinking in the restaurant or standing by the boundary of the cultivation area. The control includes two parts: the staff which managing the restaurant and the signs show 'no entry' to the cultivation area. It is not compulsory to buy the food or drink if people want to simply visit the farm. As the farm has a restaurant, therefore there are seats and tables for more than 40 people to eat and rest.

The restaurant has an outdoor part with seats, tables and umbrellas. The seats indoor and outdoor are prepared for the consumers, people who do not consume literately cannot use them. But toilet can be used by everybody.

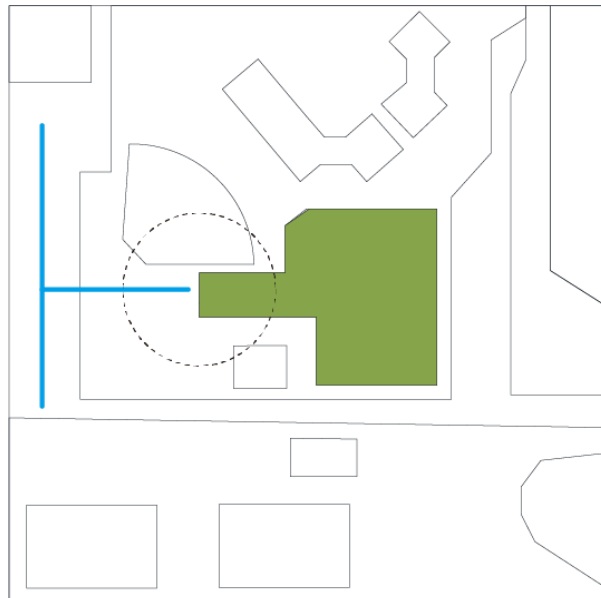
## Farm F



*Fig. 26 The visual access of urban farm F*

## Visual Access

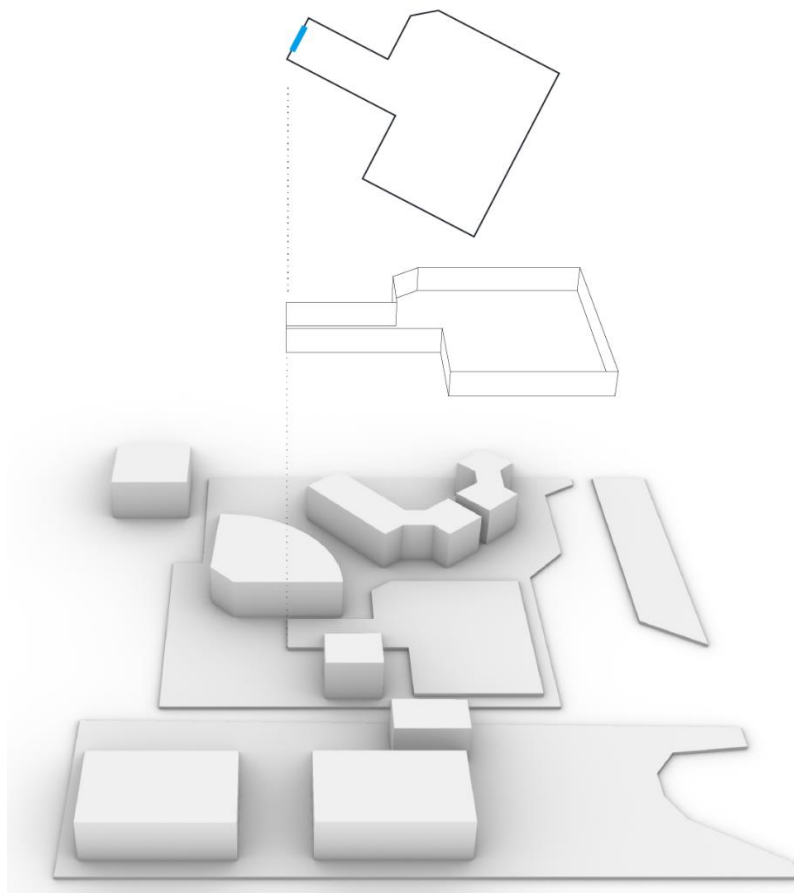
The farm locates in a community. People can see the farm from the surrounding roads. As it is in a community which has less big block constructions, there is less obstacles to block the visual access of the farm.



*Fig. 27 The physical access of urban farm F*

## Physical Access

The farm is well connected to the community roads, which has a good physical accessibility.



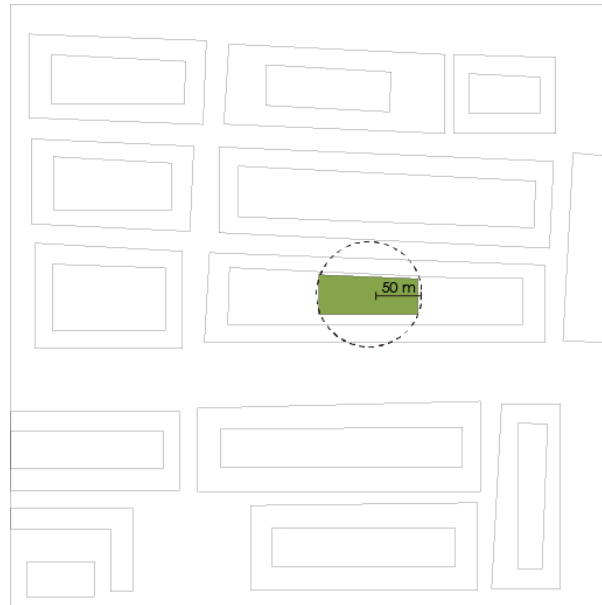
*Fig. 28 The surroundings and fence of urban farm F*

### **Enter and Use**

The urban farm locates by the communal activity centre. It is semi-surrounded by the residential buildings, and on its west and south sides are two bicycle lanes. The entrance has a steel-bar gate and people can enter freely. People can see the farm from outside of the gate. A board hang on the gate written 'welkom' and the information of the vegetable for sale. The fence of the farm is made of low bush which people can see the farm from outside. The farm has two main parts: the cultivation area and the non-cultivation area. In the cultivation area, the land is separate into small growing plots and visitors can walk between each plot. The paths between each plot are flat but not paved. For the non-cultivation area, the ground is paved by the bricks. The tool room and glass room locate in this area. When visitor go to the cultivation area, they have to pass this area first. Normally, people who work on the farm will rest in this area so when visitors enter the farm, a talk will probably happen between the visitors and the urban farmers. There is no signs of behaviour control nor camera on this farm. The potential control is from the people who works on the farm. Normally the farm will open when there are people work on the farm, if there are no people work there, the farm will not be open. During the close time, there is still a control from the surrounding building, farmers who lives in the building can see what happened on the

farm. Most seats and tables locate in the non-cultivation area, and there is a bench setting in the cultivation area. The farm grows a small flower plot and encourage people to pick the flowers and bring them back home. The farm provides very cheap and fresh vegetables to the people, when people come to buy the food, they can also walk around, some parents bringing their children play in the farm.

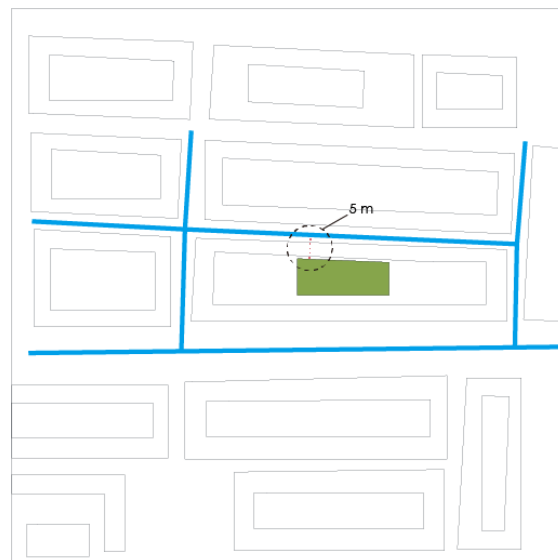
## Farm G



*Fig. 29 The visual access of urban farm G*

### Visual Access

The farm locates in the area surrounded by the residential buildings, thus from the street people cannot see the farm. The visual accessibility of this farm is almost zero. The residents who live in the surrounded buildings can see the farm through their windows.

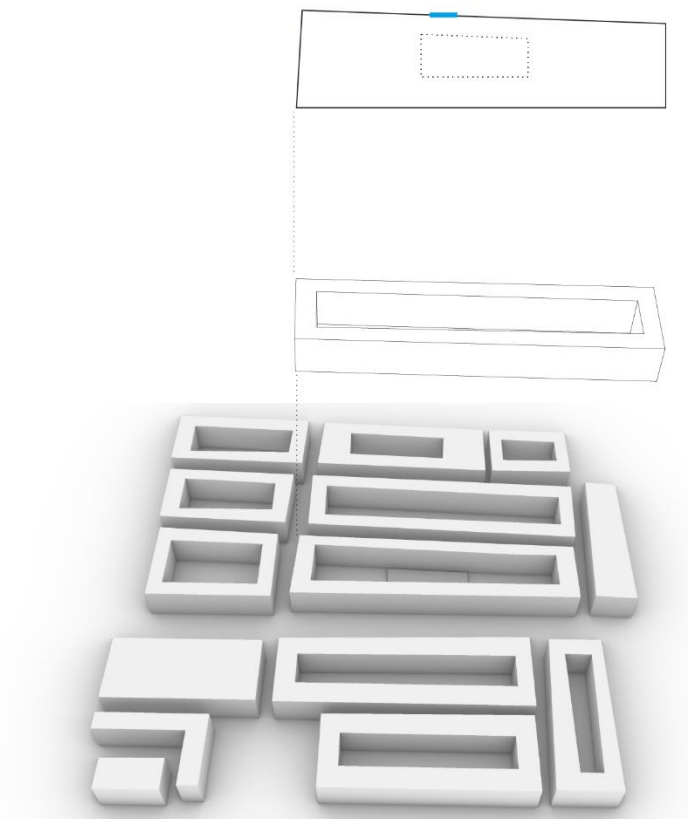


*Fig. 30 The physical access of urban farm G*

### Physical Access

The farm is close to several traffic flows thus has a good accessibility.



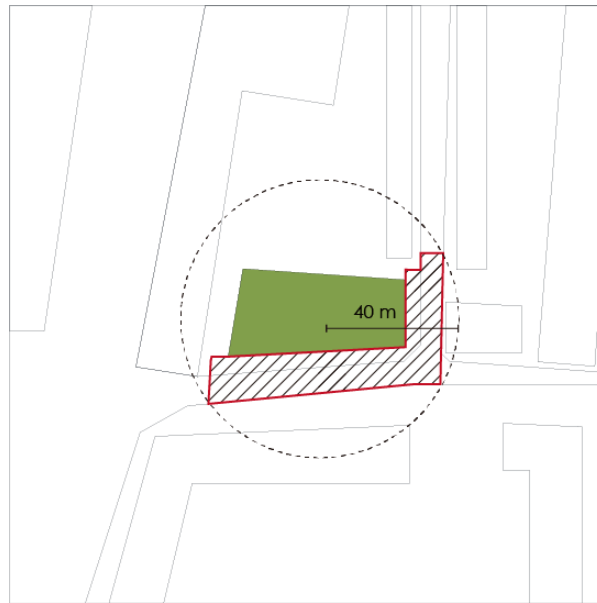


*Fig. 31 The surroundings and fence of urban farm G*

### **Enter and Use**

The farm is surrounded by the residential buildings, people can enter the farm through a tunnel in one of the buildings. Not like the other farms, it locates in the neighbourhood blocks and surrounded by the residential building. This makes the farm invisible from outside and people have to walk through a tunnel to access the farm. The farm is separated by wooden board from the back yard of each house. The gate is open during the daytime, so people can walk inside freely. In this farm, the growing units are in the form of separated wooden modules and these modules are mainly set in the middle part of area. Not like the other farms which have clear boundaries between the cultivation area and non-cultivation area, the whole area is mixture of cultivation modules and recreational space. There are no control signs on the farm and there is no gate control. Not like the other farms that people who work on the farm can be a potential control (normally these farms only open when volunteers are there), the farm can open to public without volunteers be present on the farm, therefore the potential control of volunteers is not always happened. But due to its location which surrounded by the residential housing, there is a potential control from the house that people can watch the farm through their window. There are seats for more than 15 people to sit. Some tables and 2 reclining chairs are also set. There are sunshade and green shade in the farm.

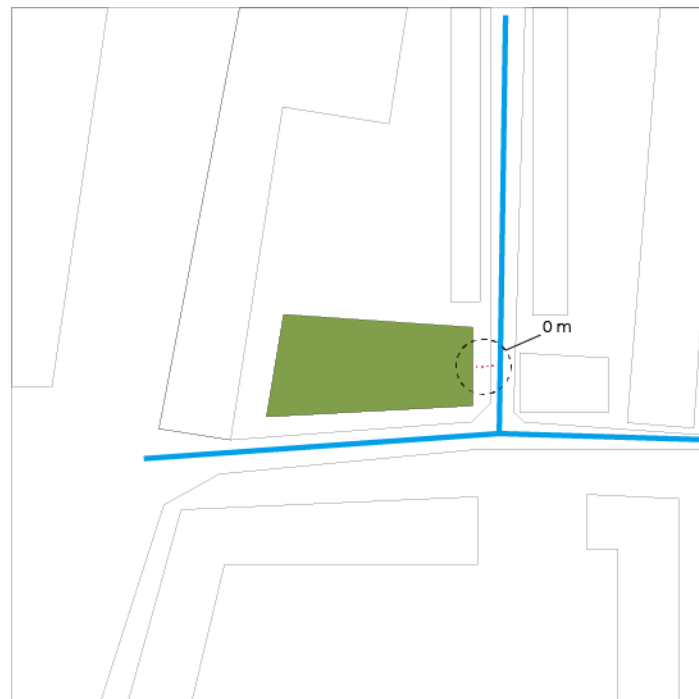
## Farm H



*Fig. 32 The visual access of urban farm H*

## Visual Access

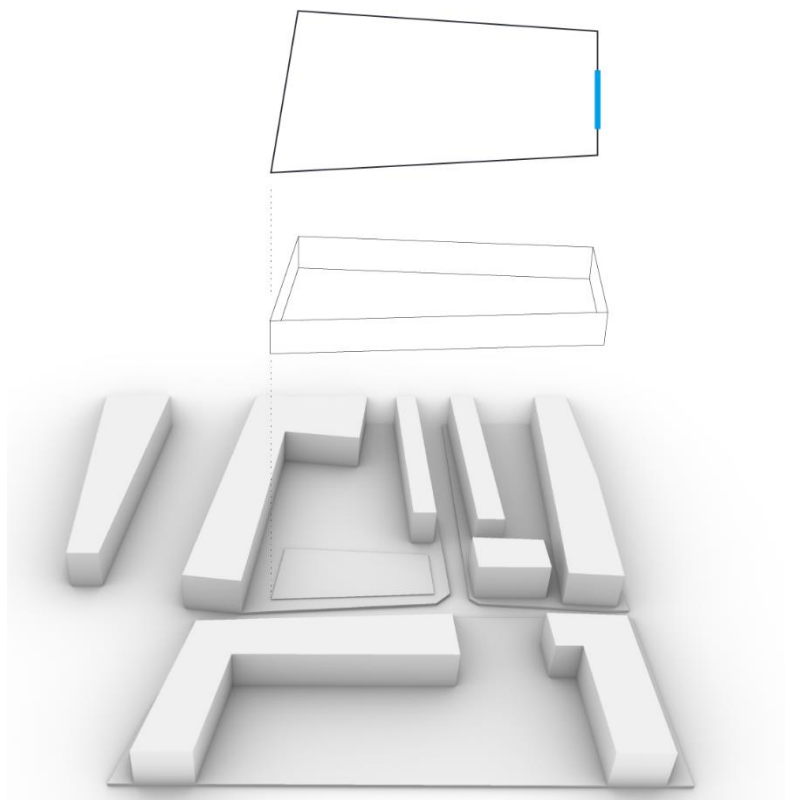
The farm is exposed to the street which make people can easily see it.



*Fig. 33 The physical access of urban farm H*

## Physical Access

The farm locates close to the traffic flow and has a good connection with the streets.



*Fig. 34 The surroundings and fence of urban farm H*

## Enter and Use

The farm is semi-surrounded by the residential building. on the west and south side of the farm are two roads. The entrance is on the south side facing the road. There is a fence setting up to isolate the farm from outside, but fence is made of barbed wire and people who passed by can still see the farm. There is an iron gate at the entrance, through the gate people can also see the farm, normally the gate is closed (but not locked), people can ask the people inside if they want to enter. The farm is separated into two main parts: the cultivation area and non-cultivation area. For cultivation area, the area is separated into small plots and between each plot there are paths. The path allows visitors to walk in the cultivation area and watch the crops. The non-cultivation area is paved with bricks and used as relaxing area for people to eat and social. In every Friday evening, a neighbourhood dinner will be held here, and several tables will be assembled into a long table. Everybody is welcomed to bring their own food and join the dinner. There is a kitchen in the non-cultivation area and people can also prepare the food and drinks in the kitchen. The first control for visitor is the gate control, normally visitors has to ask the people to get the permission to go inside. In the farm there is no signs to control people's behaviours. But there is a potential control from the people who works on the farm. Another interesting control is the volunteers who live in the surrounding buildings, they can watch what happened through their window and intervene if necessary. Most seats and tables are set at the non-

cultivation area, three sunshades are set over the tables. There are also some seats in the cultivation area. A temporary toilet is in the tool room. The highlight is the green corridor covered with cirrus between the cultivation area and non-cultivation area.

## 5.2 The horizontal comparison of each cases

This section compared the cases in three aspects: access, enter and use.

### **Access**

For physical connectivity, there are two types. The first type is the urban farm which stand by the street, this type has the higher physical accessibility as the farm is tightly connected to the road system without any gap. The visitors need less clue to find and access the farm if they are on the road. The second type is the urban farm connects to the street by a specific path, the function of the path is to connect the farm and the road system because there is space gap between the farm and the road. For example, the urban farm surrounded by the residential buildings has a path to connect it and the road outside, thus here the 'buildings' are the space gap which separate the farm and the road. In this case, the visitors need to take one more step (the path) so that they can access to the farm. The interesting thing is, to reduce the difficulty of accessibility by the 'one more step', some farms set the guidance board by the street to enhance its physical accessibility from the visual aspect.

The guidance board also plays a function of enhancing the visual connectivity. The visual connectivity has a tight relationship with the physical connectivity as both of them relate to the location of the farm. In general, the farm which has the first type of physical connectivity always has a good visual connectivity as there is no 'space gap' which between the people on the road and the farm. If the space gap exists, then there can be potential visual obstacles in this space which block the vision of the farm such as the buildings in the case above. For the farm which has the second type physical connectivity, the visual connectivity is lower than the first one. This is because the 'gap' created the distance and obstacles which make the people more difficult to see and realise the farm. However, some farms set the introduction board which stands on the obvious place by the road could compensate the poor visual connectivity: by seeing the board, people can find the farm easier. This board plays a role of 'bridge' which is over the gap between the farm and the outside area.

### **Enter**

In chapter 3, it introduced four types of the boundary design. The findings show that the farm has the soft boundary (no fence or less fence) has a poorer management than the farm has the hard boundary (with fence, gate or both). It is not saying that the hard boundary lead to a good management, the reason also can be that the people who manage the farm well prefer to set fence or gate. For the farms which have the hard boundary, whether it has a gate or not reflects a symbolic meaning of control. For the farm which has fence but no gate, visitors can enter freely

thus the place is more public. For the farm which has a gate control, although visitors can enter after asking, the farm brings a feeling of less public. In general, the publicness level of the 'enter section' is decreasing from type one to type four.

Concerning this situation, the compensation also happened in the cases. For the farm which has fence and gate, there is the board written 'welcome' at the entrance. Although the physical design decreased the publicness, the symbolic elements such as the board increased the willingness of the visitor to enter the farm and this leads to more people visit the farm thus the farm is opened to more public and make it look more public.

## **Use**

This paper simplified the use into two categories: move and stay. Rather than discuss how public the farm is, it is more like to discuss how un-public the farm is. The reason showed in chapter 3, as move and stay are the basic needs for people in the space, if the basic needs of the public cannot be satisfied, then it means the space is not public. All the cases allows visitors to move and stay. For the commercial farm, people can stay if they consume, for example, the table area. But for the rest of the area of the commercial farm, people can move and stay freely without consumption. For the non-profit farm, for the farm which has a gate, visitors has less freedom to move and stay than the farm without a gate. One reason is the farm which has a gate is always managed by the people, when visitors enter the farm, the managers are also on the farm which brings a impression that this place is managed and owned by somebody thus let visitors feel less public of the place. For the farm without a gate, people can enter the farm without anyone to open the gate, thus people can go into the farm even when there is no people who work on the farm. Without the presence of the managers or people who work on the farm, the farm bring more public impression. There are two cases which have the similar condition of the facilities such as the sitting place, path pavement, and the farm which has no gate make the investigator feel more public. The main variable which caused this difference is whether the farm has the people who work on it at the moment.

## **5.3 The mechanism behind the representation publicness**

Based on the report of representation publicness and the interviews, this report found the publicness of urban farm are mainly affected from two factors: one is the short-term contract and uncertain context which effect on the ownership conducting to the management and then expressed on the representation publicness. For example, because of the short-term contract, the managing board will not build some permanent facilities or high cost facilities such as toilet for people, which lead to a low level of amenity in the representation publicness. the other one is the vandalism and stealing behaviour which will effect on the farm, and then this result conducts to the management, after that the management has an action on the representation publicness such as increasing the control such as set gate and fence control, therefore it decreases the representation publicness.

These two are the main factors which can have an effect on the representation publicness during the research. However, during the observation and interview, the researcher found that the publicness is very complex in each case. In each case, the urban farm experienced different history thus selected different strategy to manage and as a result their publicness are diverse.

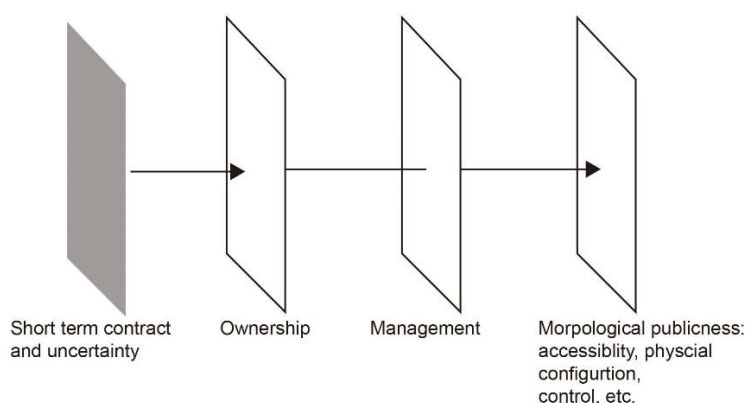
### Short term contract and uncertain environment effect on the representation publicness

The short-term contract and the uncertain environment make people dare not to have a long-term investment on the facilities such as toilet, which makes the amenity level lower (Fig. 35). The researcher visited one farm and found there is no toilets for guests, people from the farms reported that:

“the contract of using this land is only two years, and after two years we have to make another two-years contract, so if we build the facilities such as toilet, we don’t know whether it will be demolished if the contract cannot continue in the future.”

And it would decrease people’s motivation to improve and construct the facilities on the farm:

“right, well there is always unpredictability of your existence when you are in the dynamic context of the city. we had this garden for 6 years, but now we heard that in about 2 or 3 years it gonna be massive building here, we have to go, that is flat to the garden of course. luckily they can survive if we are talking with the people with the company which gonna build the building about how we can make a new garden in the new situation. But it can quite affect the motivation of the people, right? we are working on this garden and then the garden will over.”



*Fig. 35 Short term contract affects the publicness of the farm*

From the publicness dynamic process model, it can be explained that the short-term contract makes the ownership of urban farm becomes uncertain in the future, thus this has an effect the decision of management board which build less high-cost or permanent facilities for users.

### Vandalism effect on the representation publicness

The vandalism and stealing will effect on the physical aspects of the farm which will make the management board to increase the control of the farm, which makes the control level higher (Fig. 36). In June 2019 the researcher visited the farm and that moment the farm was without a gate and people can freely enter the farm. However, after three months, in September, the farm set a gate with a lock and people cannot enter it if the gate is locked.

Because of the damage and rubbish happens in the farm, even the greenhouse of the farm was burnt down, therefore, the farm started to set the gate control.

The people Reported:

“we don't know who burn it down, it could be the person who lives here left standing candle or something, it could be put on fire?”

“We make the gates, we decided OK, there are just so many things going on, and like I don't mind people peeing here, I really don't, but you know sometimes you walk in and there is poop, on the path, in front like you put one step in the garden and then found someone pooped here, and I never had that behaviour here.”

The manager of the farm also reported:

“so we made the gate so that the risk will not affect the motivation of people, and we can stimulate the positive views of the gardeners as much as possible so that will push aside the more negative views. so the more we attract people like the people who sit here, and the more this happens, the less chance you have that other person come here to smoke joints leave their stuff behind. and they keep leave a lot of food and attracts a lot of rats and other people don't use the place. so the more we can push those uses, the more we stimulate positive. that is why we put the gate.”

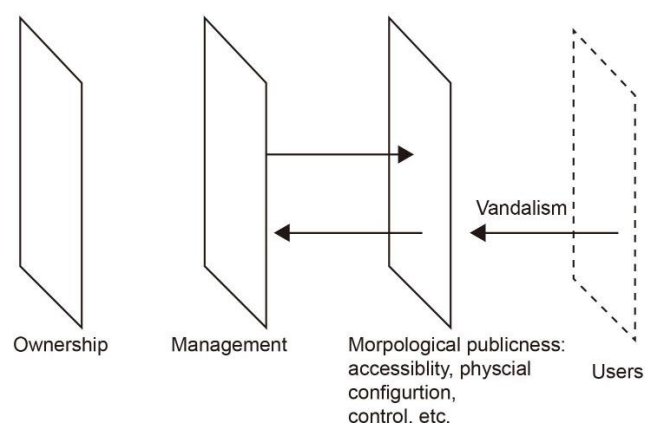


Fig. 36 The users affect the Publicness of the urban farm

From the publicness dynamic model, we can find when the users damage the farm which will cause the management to adjust their control of the farm, for example to set the gate. This increasing of control will decrease the accessibility of the farm, but it can keep the quality which people can get from the farm. As one volunteer said:

“if you say how about to take the fence away, and everybody can come in, and I don't think you will be able to maintain the garden.”

The coordinator also mentioned gate control can make sure everybody who goes inside knows each other thus to improve the connection:

“It is not about the numbers, it is about quality. It is about feeling the responsibility. you still need to make sure people know each other, otherwise, why would you join us.”

From the interview it can be found that, although the control level of the urban farm could be increased, which makes the accessibility becomes lower, however, the farm can keep the quality of people's experience, also like another manager said:

“So another risk to the motivation could be. If there is too much pressure from outside, for example, I was telling about it will happen too often that people sleep in the garden, and they demolish or destroy damage things in the farm or there are people taking a shit in the vegetable field, it happens too much, then people will say I am not gonna garden here. so that is I think that is a risk it is also an adventure to garden in this context if there is a garden in the rural area, then it probably attracts less attention, but here may be a lot of problems.”

The control can make sure people who are involved have a good experience. And the control does not mean the farm close the gate to the public, as a volunteer said:

“we don't have members, there is a talk with someone if they come here first, maybe after two or three times after he has been here, so like to know a bit more about someone but this is not any.... it is all volunteers who are here.”

The difference from a normal public place such as park is when visitors come, they can have an interaction with the people who managed the farm, and then they can get involved and use this space.

“you cannot enter, no. unless somebody left the gate open, and that moment this person is the host. so if I am just working here and you enter and you know I can see you and I don't know you, and we will just walk by you and ask 'who are you? can I help?', so if you said you just want to a walk in this garden, that is fine. but I am responsible.”

To keep the quality of the farm meanwhile not reject the visitors from outside, the interaction such as talk could help the farm to still stay public and avoid the negative aspects of control.



## 6 Conclusion

This thesis first discussed the appropriate model can be applied in this study. It found that rather than take the publicness as static status of the space, the publicness is more like a dynamic process which its inner components can affect each other rather than isolated from each other. For the operationalization of the new dynamic model, it Sacrificed the diversity of modelling the publicness and selected a simple narrative way to describe the publicness. The advantage is it makes the study on a more solid conceptual foundation and less debateable of what should investigate or not as it exhausted all the possibilities from the root of the field work (although the category is tough and simple but indeed it exhausted all the possibilities). The process-thinking is through the whole study. It not only helps to establish the dynamic model, but also let us re-think what the 'publicness' actually is. This re-thinking of the 'publicness' is briefly discussed in the chapter 8.

Based on the publicness dynamic model, the thesis has several findings of representation publicness through the field work. First finding is the symbolic sign plays a compensation role to increase the publicness when the publicness in the section of 'access' and 'enter' is low. The sign with information such as introduction or route guidance can release the difficulty the physical material or design brings of visiting the farm. The second findings is the farm without the managers or people work on the farm shows more public as the existence of these people brings an impression that the farm is owned by someone which make the place less public.

Initially, each farm in this study has a willingness to open to the public, but the farm's publicness is shaped in a dynamic process. This shaping process can be observed from representation publicness. For 'use' in the representation publicness, the short-term land use contract rather than a long-term contract brings an uncertain future to the urban farm, which makes the farm has less motivation to construct facilities for the public such as toilet. For the 'enter' in representation publicness, the user's behaviours such as vandalism and food stealing make the farm set the gate, fence and control. The response to these external factors makes each farm reach its balancing point of publicness in different context. Although the response to external factors will enhance the control, this action decreases the undesirable behaviours so that keep the quality of the public life inside the farm. Through the interaction process between the people from farm and people from outside, more people would be get involved thus to make the farm not exclusive but still open to the public. Although not like the other public space that people can freely enter, the urban farm provides a high quality of connections between users which create new form of public space.

This research proposed a publicness dynamic process model to analyse the publicness of urban farm in the Netherlands. This model concerns both the static representation aspect and the dynamic mechanism of publicness. Compare to the previous publicness model, this model does not focus on the specific score nor draw accurate evaluation of the publicness level. This model focuses more on the interpretation of the publicness, and the relationship between each component and the influence factor. It concerns publicness as a dynamic process. Although the

choice of this model is not able to present an accurate image of publicness of each farm, but the changes of each representation aspect and the relationships it shows in the model help us to look deeply into the publicness, thus to better understand the publicness and what will affect the publicness of urban farm.

## 7 Limitation

This study applies the snow ball sampling strategy, which will lead to a bias that the selected cases are more opened to public and this ignores the other groups of urban farms which are not open to public. This is because the urban farm which is opened to public has a high probability to be known by others whereas the urban farm which is not opened to public has a low probability to be known by others. As a result, the urban farm which is less known by the others has a low probability to be chosen as a case.

The second limitation is the subjective bias during the field work. The observation and recording by researcher are affected by researcher's subjective bias. For example, the control level received by different individual will variate. These results can also be affected by the weather, the people in the farm and different day in the week.

The third limitation is the reliability of the interview. The interviewee could emphasize some aspects and less talk the other factors. For example, interviewee reports the short-term contract restricts the further development of the farm such as less facilities for public. The other factors such as cost and management can also have an effect on this result.

The last limitation is the choose publicness model. Admittedly, the new model is not a complete model, it still can be improved and iterates in the empirical work. This model uses a linear thinking to analyse the relationship between each factor. However, the reality could be non-linear and more complex.

## 8 Reflection

During the study of the urban farm, the author found that the concept 'publicness' is a concept born from the interaction between the space and the people rather than an ontological concept of the space itself. When applying the publicness model in the field work, it is also limited to describe how public the space is based on the limited description. Therefore, the author think it is necessary to have an interdisciplinary study combined with environmental psychology which based on a scientific approach to know how the space brings a public feeling to the people. As the author think one initial purpose of publicness study is some space supposed to be public but it brings an un-public feeling to people. Thus, it is necessary to explore how these regulations and design of the space can make people feel the place more public and this knowledge can more explicitly guide the urban planning policy when the city intend to build or transfer a space into the public space.

When concerning the urban farm as a public space, it is important to concern its capacity of being a public space. The policy maker can bring the support such as land use or financial to exchange the 'more public' of the urban farm as a supplement of urban public space. And what should be carefully noticed is, a well-organized urban farm takes years to be established, before swept it out of the new urban plan, it is necessary to concern the value it brings to the citizens.

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## Appendix

## **Interview Questions**

Hi, I am Jiakun, a master student of landscape architecture and spatial planning student in Wageningen University. I am doing my thesis about urban neighborhood garden farm. Thank you for this interview, your answer will help us know more about the urban neighborhood farm.

1. How many people manage this urban garden? How do you finance the garden for daily maintenance?
2. Who use this place in general? Are there any people who does not belong to this neighbourhood and use it? Who are they?
3. What activity will people have in this garden?
4. What time you think is the proper time for people to use it? Is there difference between the neighbourhoods' people and people from outside?
5. Did any deviant/uncomfortable behaviour happen in this place? What rule you concern most that you think people have to obey?
6. What risk you think the garden will have when people use it? To prevent these risks, what settings/measures are made?
7. If more people from outside will visit or use this place, which way do you prefer?  
  
Set an entrance fee/ask for a little donation? Or you feel pressure and limit the visiting number? Or you think nothing to be done only if the people obey the rule in the garden?

## **Interview Note**

**The word in color blue is from the interviewer**

**The word in color black is from the interviewee**

1. (10.06.2019, 15.00-17.00)



What is your role in the farm? How did you get involved in the farm?

I am a volunteer of the farm, in total there are 10-15 volunteers who works on this farm. I am interested in the growing activity when the community want to transfer this land into a farm, then I become a volunteer who work on this farm.

Could you tell me the story of this garden?

This garden was set up three years ago, the land belongs to the community, in the beginning, the community rent out half of the land into small plots for private actors to grow their own food. And half of the land as a collective place for volunteers to grow the food, the food grown by volunteers will be sent to the community kitchen and they will be cooked for the old people. However, private sectors who rent the plots does not manage it well, because they did not come often so the ground are full of weeds. Then the community decide to take the renting land back and make the whole land grown by volunteers. The community will support the daily cost of the farm (water, electricity), and the food for example the cabbage will go to the community kitchen, meanwhile, we also sell the food, people can buy the cabbage for 50 cents. This money will be collected to buy the tools and seeds.

I will show you around, this plot surrounded by the fence belongs to a morocco lady, she is one of our volunteers who works on the farm, but meanwhile she has this small piece plot to grow her own food. The pile is the shit from horse and cow, they are donation from neighborhood friend, we can use the shit to fertilizer the crops. We both grow crops and flowers, the flowers are for people to pick, you can freely pick it.

May I pick it?

Of course, you can. But not the flowers in the entrance, the flowers is for people to watch so do not pick that flowers, some times when I told people you can pick the flowers and they try to pick the flowers in the entrance, I said that is not for picking and stop them, they go mad! Hahaha, the flowers in the picking plot you can pick it. For the food we also grow the pumpkin here.

I heard that there is a pumpkin competition?

Yes, this pumpkin will attend the competition, around September it will become very big.

Does any people visit this farm?

Not many people visit this farm, the people from neighborhood they do not visit this farm much. Most visitors of the farm are people who live farm from here. There is a bicycle path near our farm, when people who ride the bicycle pass our farm, some of them will stop and walk inside

our farm. But for the visitors of neighborhood, no, and I do not know why. Maybe because our opening time is from 14.00 to 17.00 and the open time is not long in a day.

Do you think it is because people thought this place is a private place so they think they cannot enter?

I do not know, but I always talked with my neighborhoods to come to our farm, and this place welcome them, but they still have not come yet.

Do you have some promotions to make people come?

We have Facebook, website and information board in front of the entrance. These all shows that we welcome people to join and have a look of our farm.

What can people do in the farm? And how many people can visit the farm at the same time?  
What is not allowed to do in the farm?

People they can walk around and buy food in our farm, we even provided chairs for people to sit. I don't mind more people to come, actually I am very welcome people to visit our farm. People can pick flowers in the picking area for free, but not the flowers that are near the entrance. One notice is, do not get close to the bee box area, it is not safe. The beekeeper left the bee box in our farm, and we help him to sell the honey, he has a piece of plot.

Does he need to pay?

No, he doesn't need to pay for it. He didn't come here often, so we sell the honey for him.

Until now, is something bad happened in this farm? For example, people stole and broke the farm?

No, for now we haven't had any thing like this happened. h

Do you have any support from outside?

We have some support from the municipality, with their subsidies, we installed the water pipe which is easier to irrigate the farm. Also, there are other subsidies from some companies. Last year we cannot use all the money on the farm, so we organized a short trip to Nijmegen with our volunteers as a welfare.

Most of our volunteers they have more or less mental disease, their doctor sent them to this place because they think this will help to treat their disease.

Thank You Annelis, Thanks for the chat!

2. (15.06.2019, 14.00-17.00)

Who owns this land?

The local council owned this land and We rent this place.

What is your role in this garden? Could you introduce your garden?

I am one of the initiatives of this garden, in total there are three people of the board.

Before our farm is on another site five-minute walk from here. That time we are on a trial of the farm, more like an experiment. And then we move to this place and try to manage it well. Now we have a shop and also sell food and drinks which made from the gardens growings.

Who works on this garden?

Except us there are also volunteers who come and work.

Are they from the neighborhoods?

No, they are from the whole region, some of them lived far from here. People chose work here could also treat themselves and make them feel pleasant.

Are there any visitors who come here?

Because this place is quite new so for now not many people know this place, but there are some school education activity taking place in our garden. Sometimes in one day there could be around 100 children come to visit our garden.

Do you want more people to come to your garden?

Of course, because the running model based on the custhe coordinators. We sell the plants and food, so more people visit our place means there are more potential buyer.

Is something bad happed in this garden?

For now, there is not really bad things happened, only one time some young people demolished some glasses of glass room.

Note: after the interview, a lady who works in the kitchen is taking picture of the tea and desert she made, and she said this picture will be put on the website so let people know the food they serve and make people come and taste.

3. ( 23.08.2019, 14.00-18.00)

I heard this garden will close in the future?

Start this year, not knowing when will they end the garden, if we have any garden, we had said OK, we cannot invest to getting more people, if we do something we have to focus on talk to municipality and politician stop to end the garden not investing in getting more people from the neighbourhood. And then we can start investing in the garden again. Because I would love to have people from China as I would love to have people from all over the world. So far, we have twenty nationalities. you thought maybe I am exaggerating you know; I think we have twenty. Two weeks ago I start counting and there are twenty nationalities.

Are they all like Dutch or I mean they are just living in the Netherlands?

They are the first generation.

Twenty is a lot.

Yes, twenty is definitely a lot.

In my mind maybe it is about 4 or 5 like people from Morocco or Africa or from China I don't know.

Yeah, we have internationally oriented the community so this what we are.

Yeah also last time you mention during the research what you can profit, I think my point is I have already introduced my the topic is about how to think urban farm can also become an urban green space for the people, also before that I made an interview with the representative in the municipality, he is taking charge of urban farm affairs.

Yes, the people said another challenge is the municipality hasn't realized that urban farm can also become a green space for people, so they really, I mean they have some financial support for the park like the traditional green space, but they haven't realize this can also, become an investment place that they make some financial support like make this place good for the people because it already played this kind of function it is not only growing food, but the municipality hasn't seen this, they think it is just to grow food it is not a place relax for people, so that is also my purpose from social level to think to do my research maybe can also become a public space for people so when municipality realize this maybe thing will change and maybe think more importance of the urban farm, not just like it is growing food and it is just maybe the land price will be low because of this, also they will think this is really important and they should not knock it down to build some what we think like buildings can sell more money and have a high price. So that is my purpose.

Yeah, we do have some space in our city, they grow food and there is no fence around it. It is just open space.

Oh nice, could also later provide me with some name of them?

Yeah, how we start that because we did not have this plot right from the start. We start out with big bins actually. I put them on top of the bridge. We grow all kinds of herbs and some flowers. I will ask people from the neighbourhood to help us water the plants. Basically others will say you guys just crazy, people going to steal it, ruin the whole place, but it never happened.

Never happened?

Never happened, once I put a little card on the bin it is written 'this garden is also made for you, so you will have whatever you need but leave something for the next one'  
So only once somebody picked one sunflower, it must be a hard job because it is not easy because it is very thick, so I was kinda disappointed, I think Oh God I was attached to these flowers and somebody took it and how does it work for me? And I turned out the guy lives on the zone they had their birthday, it does say 'pick whatever you need', 'so it is my birthday so I picked one', so it is completely in the agreement what we said on the card. So they are not mean to ruin anything they meant 'hey it is my birthday I am on my own, I am celebrating my birthday I picked this flower', brilliant! So, it is more you know I realized I was breeding this green space, an urban farm in the public space, so this what it supposed to be. All right, so do it. And the guy lives along the canal a little bit down to this road and him started urban farming underneath the big tree, and he managed the growing heaps and heaps of the coordinatoratoes underneath this tree, it is just brilliant.

Do you mean the same man?

The same man, so I thought it is also influencing, you can do it here and you can do it in front of your door, go ahead! do it! We simply think we need more food on this street and we need more people to see.

So where are the bins?

we stopped it because the problem was we got this 18 by 18 centimetres I think, they were offered from the municipality, so we had six of them on the bridge, but then in order to keep them going during winter that was really tough. So we realized either we have to put green stuff in there that remain there being green during winter because it is also very difficult, they have a railway station in the back and its one lone road to the centre. within the centre, we have a lot of people from salvation army but also mental stressed people, and they would simply hang on the bridge. but also use these bins as a shit hole. so we are the middle of the city, so it was kind difficult also for us to maintain them in winter in order to for some little respect. so after two and a half years, we decided ok so maybe because of taking a lot of time, and because of my canoe business is also at the bridge, so I didn't mind taking care of this plants if nobody was taking care

of these plants. or talking to the people if they would come over, you know, ask questions or explanations or whatever, but then when my business really took off, I want to focus if I am there I want to focus on my canoe business if I am here I am focusing on plants. because I need an income as well.

this is just a garden, it is a space for people to meet, it is brilliant for the neighbourhood. I have never had a garden like this, in my opinion. and it is not about the garden, it is about the knowledge within the garden. so here we have twenty nationalities as I said, everybody has their own ideas about how to garden but also about how to prepare food or how we share food or you set the table simple things like that. so now if we really want to connect on the right level, then you have to meet. how? where? do you do that? because as I said, people from China have their own shops, people from morocco have their own shop, people from Turkey have their own shop, and polish people have their own shops. so where do you meet? They don't. but food in the garden you can meet, I mean I can feel that here we have certain code, we demand, for example, no plastics, so we provide something different if somebody's baskets don't really fit, so no plastics. without saying forbidden to bring it, so you can imagine at the beginning in this neighbourhood people will bring their camping stuff which we don't have, so you want to find a code that everybody can understand nobody can dominate from their own cultural background, so that is fascinating!

[I like this point, as you said, the different groups they always in their own realm](#)

yeah, that is what we do, and that's I mean that is a biological thing, so you if want to survive, you know you go for people who like you. and that is, of course, I find a funny but actually we still see people in the partnership even if they have been living here for years, shall you find a partner always from the similar background. so it is not until the second or third generation that you see. within my time I was staying in South Africa, I realized at one point maybe a new white person, oh god, now everybody starts looking like the people in my own village. You know so that is what happens to the brain because you do want to keep a social you know like the familiar background. but the certain types are one point you start it works like that.

Overside of the canal, that is the den Haag centre and this place is a swamp there is nothing here but green. it also means that the soil here is what we call clay where is on the other side of the town that sand is 'old Dunnes', so from the stuck's perspective, the old Dunnes that is the perfect place to live, so the rich people they build their houses there. once it starts bleeding, they will build here as well but officially this area here is worse, because of the swamp. so better houses are on the other side, and less rich people's houses are on this site, so this is the old house area. It also means people from the house where they are oriented in the part town because they want to live on the canal that the canal house that you do not want to be associated with the rest part of the town. so just up to the road that is where is hill weg starts, and this is called the 'songweg'. Basically, this area is the people from morocco or turkey moved in, and the poor people from the Netherlands and Turkish people came in and people from morocco came in, and they moved out. so the people don't want to associate. so they only have one or two joining the garden. so I found it is interesting but they don't want to be associate.

Because they thought they are more associated with the town, the city centre.

yeah, so what we start with the garden on the bridge. and that is the information about where we are. and we want a fence and we need a fence, it is too easy for people to enter and take whatever they like, you want people to be motivated in the garden, you know they grow food. This part is the old neighbourhood, for some reasons, the people remain living in this old neighbourhoods are they kind of open-minded. so it also means that the salvation army surrounds the corner they made people live here as well, the social housing organization this is 85% of the houses here from the social housing organization. so it does say some water level of income which is the lowest in the whole of den Haag but also means for some reasons makes it easier for these organizations to be in this place. where they would say 'yes, how about we spread the problems, so also in the rich area, why don't we make social housing in the rich areas?' at least you know, this spread the problems, no, because you make sure you have a lot of protests, more dentists and lawyers, 'oh, we don't want these people here, we don't want these people here.' and convinced half problem here, our prime minister living here, would be solved already. we had this boat tour that our king goes on the canals, all the street were cleaned. so our prime minister he goes by bike but I think our king never really really realized this street by cleaned for this, nobody's telling him.

so anyway, I do think indeed, it is a very interesting topic you have, and I do think that space like this should have a public function as well, I would love to have participants here they said 'OK, don't worry, I will be here every Monday morning' and somebody else 'I will be here Monday afternoon' so we put open the gate over there and at least you know people can walk come in walk. so we try to have the same effect and tell people to become a member so 25 euros a year you get the code of the gate.

also like only enter or they can have a place to grow food?

yeah, if you want to grow food, it depends if we still have plots available, then you also pay 60 euros just once in order to make sure you maintain your plot.

it is like a deposit?

yeah

and after one year?

if you say 'well, I will continue next year, that is fine, so we remain this 60 euros.' and after a year we have new people and we have people let go.

so, for now, you have this kind of idea like because very complicated context, you want to make a code so to make sure that not some people that doing some bad things in the farm. this also a good idea, keep the place safe.

exactly, what we tell people, specifically, women, if they here on their own, they should lock the gate. But if we are like now we have more people since we will have dinner in this place, the gate open. so everybody is free to enter the gate you know to enter the garden, and you know we always have people around you know asking well 'who are you? where are you from?' or you know a little explanation.

how about like for example if somebody just occasionally passes by and they want to go inside and have a look? maybe the people will not come here very often, because you have to pay 25 euros then you can go inside, so he cannot go inside?

Well, if we know you are OK, and you have been joining here more often, like on this Friday evening's dinner, and we know you are limited in income or whatever, we don't talk about that (fee) and you become a member. and we do have people they say only 25 euros you know I always pay more on what you like so we have always people paying more. and then so that is your freedom.

if I live here, I would like to pay this for one year it is not much.

no, it is not. most people are able to can afford it.

that is also good like you can use the money to maintain the farm and make it better.

so when you talk about it, you talk about the farm, when I talk about it I talk about the 'garden'.

yeah

that is the difference.

because in my opinion, a farm then focuses on production, where it is not about production. it is about the meeting, it is about connection.

when I talking about 'farm' I want to also make it different from the normal 'garden', because in Den Haag also there is some neighbourhood garden and they don't grow food.

you have a point, I made one sentence in English what is actually we do, and something like sustainable urban food garden. so, I put all these words together, I have to look the way I describe and I had to laugh when I did so. because indeed, the question is, what are we? or what do we want to be? or where do we want to go? and as I said, when we started out, also when all the tables there, this is the whole garden, when other people in the back and sitting, it is a beautiful place for a lot of sheds. so to get to your question again, because maybe we should cover on what are the other questions.

that is good you tell me the background story of the garden. so what is your role in this garden?



I started out this one of the initiatives and then right now coordinator, and basically, the years between 2014 until now, we basically did whatever we thought, best, so without really having a title for what. and this year from one fund because of somebody to pay me some hours for a week.

from the farm?

yes

do you have some colleagues?

at the moment, no, we have certain volunteers they are helping.

so you like a management board.

yes

we have our own board, so I am supposed to, they are responsible, so whatever I do I have to inform them and I have to check if whatever I initiate if that is OK with the board.

so you start this farm?

yes

is that like first, you talk with the municipality, and ask them if you can use this land? what is the story of this start?

the start of it was to be a field with garbage bags all over wherever. so we get a lot of people and we climb over the fence and start to clean. and again and again and again. and that is how we started to talk with the owner of the land and said we do have people and they really like to start gardening here, how to buy it? first, they have something like that is dangerous because once you give out the land...so we said ok whatever we don't mind we will not fight against you, we want you to be a partner, so if you agreed, we can start a gardening, and we agreed that we will not protest when we have to leave. if we have to leave, we leave. slowly by slowly, they start to trust. they said ok so you better find out if you want to start a garden here, what are the means from the municipality. because you need soil and it is healthy. because of formal days, they were all kinds of little companies here so a lot of ground here is dirty. what they had to do as an investment, is to take off the sand put a layer of root material and on top of that, they put the good soil. and that the layer of 75 centimetres, and then because of it is still expensive for them, they said ok so let's make a deal then we already make parking space, because we need to build the parking space anyway if we build houses here. so this actually supposed to be the parking space for the new houses. so that is why it oriented like this. (pointe at the paved part of the garden)

so this area is like they brought new soil on it, and who paid for this?

the housing organization, they paid for that

before I thought they only provide the land.

That what they did, there was a fence here, but the people from those houses said there is strange people gardening and we don't trust the fence. so they also said at one point we will have to replace the fence, so no problem, we will place the fence now. the gate over there the fence, that was one of this ordinary building fences. and they would fall over all the time. so we said OK, we don't mind but we need a good fence, we want the fence it is not closed off, which should able to look through it because you want it public to see what is going on. so they made new fence.

How do you manage this urban farm? The regulation of the farm.

We do have regulations, we do have the 'do and don't', I try to make regulation as logical as possible for the whole group. so whatever you do, for example, you are a member, and you want to celebrate your birthday, fine, we have a smaller park and place outside, please bring your people, but when you see the other people here, ask them to join. that is the rule. and then it is also obvious you don't throw food out, you don't bring plastic, like balloons, for example. this is no need for balloons. it is a waste. you create the waste. that is what we try to avoid. so these are rules without been written. it is not like 'you are not allowed to bring the balloon!' no, it is somewhere you make a logical what we don't do. we don't smoke in the garden. but it doesn't say anywhere we don't smoke, but it is logical we don't smoke.

you said like some signs like 'do not smoke'?

you don't want to just make it 'wo! do not smoke!', but to make it logical we don't smoke. because no one smokes. you could feel it, everybody does. so the other way we have a lady, one of our friends, one of the member, while having dinner, about 15 people, she started to smoke. and obviously she didn't get it. so I walk up to one member, listen 'maybe you can ask her not to smoke, it is what we don't do', so this lady was kind of shock, which was asked by her daughter. later I asked that member 'well, how did you send this message? was it OK?' 'definitely OK, because actually my mother doesn't want to smoke, she smokes when she becomes insecure.' right, that something about that. because if that thing, you know, you make sure you aware it, you know she was sitting in the table and she had somebody to talk with, that makes it different, and don't smoke because you are insecure. so it goes deeper than that, so back to your question, I don't think this management says what you do, but I do think if you design the garden as logical as possible, then you don't have to...it means a lot. As I said not bring plastic for example, then you have to inner design you have to give this code, express it through the design. so I found this combination, really really interesting, and I mean now because the designer is doing another project now, she is not participating, once she is not a member of the garden, and still you know

we see each other a lot and we talk a lot, but now I can see all right we are spending five years together, for me it is like took second education, but I also realized God I am not into designing, and understand what you mean, but if I can only rebuild that is what I do, I rebuild. now I can imagine if I go to Wageningen University and I plant trees, I would never be able to instruct people how to plant trees and order to connect. when you plant trees.

I get, also I think it is very formal regulation said that like during the management you will set some rules, right?

yes, and for farming, you don't write it, the interesting thing is we will have a meeting from the official organization here, and they are looking for the connection between the formal house care and informal ones. and they are going to organize this meeting in the formal building, and that is what I read on the website. but I don't think the place is going to organize is the right one. I want to invite you to see the garden, and you decide. and now we are going to have this meeting. because you will find people an informal setting, but if you go to the formal setting, you want to meet informal people, it does not work.

so members and volunteers are all like live nearby or they live far from this garden.

both

what is the proportion?

most of them live around, the interesting thing is we have people from our centre. they will think maybe the people don't us to participate because the funding is from this neighbourhood.

do they also give money to this farm?

if we ask, but we have from the municipality every neighbourhood ask money for participating activities. I am talking about small money if we have like we can celebrate Halloween for example, then we can ask them please this is our budget, would you mind... they said yes we will do so because they only want to participate for let's see a maximum of 20% if at least another organization is joining. so who is the first one saying I don't mind, we do it. so what we always have to do, it to save money and then we can say so we put in this budget, so we are the first ones if you put some money then you try to manage two budget of them. you know we have to save this money again for the next. so I do think what we do here should have structural funding from the municipality, because I hear most park we do is considered welfare. so I would be really really interested because if you have public space, I know that is budget for every square meter, there is a budget for every tree, there is a budget for every grass, so what are we doing here. at the moment you actually with 'Stad land bow', no, you are not a garden, you grow the coordinatoratoes. that is not a real garden. you know that is the main trick behind this.

Do you have some promotion to let more people know about this place, and let more people get involved?

this was what I try to explain before because it is not until three weeks ago, that we realized OK we can stay longer because so far, we had to focus on leaving the plots well. because in our contract now it says if we don't leave the garden, it is 250 euros every day, so they have to pay. this contract is me and my colleagues write, so we took the risk. then we started out 5 years ago, this was only a small tree. now it becomes a big tree. so it also means if we have to leave the garden, the big tree becomes a problem. so it is not only about getting more people involved, but it is also about to stay here. are that more people? now we have 110 people and some they just donate but we don't see them. or others only come once a year. so now we are organizing the special day for friends. so I hope they will appear so we can explain what we have been doing this year. because we need them next year again, every 25 euros is important money. so it is about who and how to sustain. and how to make sure this place become a really place for the neighbourhood. and what somebody said if we are not aware then it might well be that we get more and more people high educated, that is a danger. because having your own little garden this is popular and higher educated, but that is not this neighbourhood. this neighbourhood is international oriented, it is also poor, so we need a mix.

do you want more different background people involved?

and then it becomes interesting because of even yesterday, from my friend of my friend, 'do you still have a plot', and so far because I am the only coordinator, I am the only one who decides to get the plot, which is not a democracy.

but by what process you decide this, you discuss with volunteers?

no, you know what, we don't have Chinese people here, so first if Chinese people ask for a plot, we will give it. because that is what we are, so if that is what is working out because you are the first one and bring us a stay even if you disappear, that is what we need to do, because that makes it safe. that is why it is not management. that is why making it interesting if I explain to people, people will agree, but the moment I start writing it down, we have a major discussion, and that is what you do because you don't want to the discussion, they will ask 'why is this Chinese but not me?'

yes, they will think unfair

exactly, they will say' they don't live in this garden, and I am here all the time, I am friends for 5 years, and I want a plot'

I think you want to make things simple right, not complex.

(during the interview, new people come and introduce herself and want to involve)

so normally, which day will the people come to this place? every day in the week or some specific day?

whenever they like.

they can come every day?

they can come sometimes they come several times a day, the lady we can see with green leaves there, she can be here almost all day, we have students, he has a job, she has not, she has been here all the time.

but how could they enter this place?

they get the code of the gate, all these people have the code of the gate. they can come whenever they want.

but for example, if I am just a pedestrian pass by?

you cannot enter, no. unless somebody left the gate open, and that moment this person is the host. so if I am just working here and you enter and you know I can see you and I don't know you, and we will just walk by you and ask 'who are you? can I help?', so if you said you just want to a walk in this garden, that is fine. but I am responsible.

the guy who opens the garden is responsible.

yes

for example, if the gate is open, and just somebody come inside, who will take responsible? if there are many volunteers?

normally it is the one in the front. so they will just come to the people and ask because most often you will be kind of one wondering 'where am I? am I allowed to come in?'

but they are welcomed?

yes, they are, but then of course if the person doesn't feel safe, you should lock the gate.

so it depends on the people

yes, and sometimes I mean most of them I am working here I leave the gate open, sometimes I just have to finish stuff, I will lock the gate and I will hang my bag, if my bag is at the gate, people know I am here.

if somebody just walks inside, what can they do?

they can just walk around?

they can walk around, the thing is you are not allowed to pick fruits or vegetables, because the garden is not yours and you don't know whose garden so you don't.

can they just walk around and take a seat and read a book?

yes, they can, it is just the last person in the garden, is responsible. if the last person is leaving, you have to leave as well.

so it is allowed for people to come in and sit and relax?

yes, that is fine. so in winter, because the kitchen is not open to everybody, so within the greenhouse we have a water heater so you can heat the water, have a cup of tea, pick your tea, you know mint tea or whatever, so you have your tea.

as you said if somebody wants to have a party in this garden, first they should become a member?

yes, otherwise if you are from outside and you want to....we are not interested in parties, we are not, but whatever tell you if you want to change your party in the workshop I don't mind if you have a workshop. but the workshop should something about sustainability. so did have a party here birthday party of the guys, and he made a workshop of making compost, actually all his friends never really interested in making compost, of course, they had cakes and wine, no problem.

so even if they are no member?

no, they can, because one of the members organized.

for example, if I am a people who live around, but I am not a member of the farm, and one day I said I want to hold a party in this place because I think this place is really nice, is that possible?

that is possible if you rent the place, then you can rent the place.

for members, they don't need to rent the place?

but if you are going to celebrate your birthday, you want to have a big party, that is not interesting for us. we have a beautiful picture from friends marriage in our garden, they came to the garden and made the pictures here, brilliant! so, for example, I want to have my most sustainable marriage party ever, yes, please, you know, contact us, because that is a challenge, and then we sit down say OK so how about your guests who are coming who come in making interesting in recycling for example or making compost or collecting rainwater.

4. (23.08.2019, 18.00-20.00)

You already have a public space right? People are eating here(During the Friday Dinner)

This is a public space at work, it is not space, it is what happens at the moment.

What is the risk you think will happen when users use this place?

No, the main risk is the balance about the stabilizing so you need people, so the biggest risk will be everybody stops, then you got completely corrupt. that is the risk. you see here, people know everybody so they manage for people to join. you are welcome as being a newcomer. so that is the biggest risk. if you say how about to take the fence away, and everybody can come in, and I don't think you will be able to maintain the garden.

because you are not sure

if open the gate, it becomes more more more public, and what happens will my idea of ownership, responsibility, that is the risk. so now we have 110 friends of this farm and the beginning of the year I thought we need to grow to 200. I don't see this allowed but in my mind, I don't mind to 200. till somebody said 'is that the main issue is that what we need? do we need to become a member of is that something else? And I had to think about'

sure, it is not about the numbers, it is about quality. so it is about feeling the responsibility. you still to make sure people know each other, otherwise, why would you join us.

yes, if the group is too big, you are not sure if somebody comes and recognizes each other.

if you look at this society, most often they are not bigger than 60, once they become bigger, they split, that is an interesting size, because if you look at the class form in the Netherlands, for example, you have a maximum of 30, 32 consider crowded. below 60 it is almost the size. so within these numbers, an interesting thing of maintaining idea of being individual, process. and I think that also applies to a garden like this. so you don't want to every friend of this farm being your friend you have to invite for your birthday party. because still want to know each other by name. because otherwise, they can be strangers so if you talk about risks and involved, how about we would have too many members, I have never thought about that, but it is possible. my point is 'too many' people.

even they are all members?

yeah

it is still a risk like too many people

because it is overcrowded.

I think it is also they must be in this community a link with the earth, it must be there so if you have too many people, it becomes a dancing hall or something, but not this type of community they are looking for. you need maximum and fence the area, you look for the optimal size. for example if people will leave in one season, for example, the city here in Den Haag, you can rent a garden from them. at the end of the season in October, you must come back garden, and they plug all thing and when in spring your buy-in, and then you will get a different pot, so the community is ended at the end of this season, and start up again, that would not work here. we need continuity. people sitting here for a few years doesn't like to fill your lifetime but most probable..

very stable and sustainable?

yes, not like a cut-off.

you should have an active community then you can influence also the rules or regulations in that sense, we can make them but also we can study them. you can talk to people, you can introduce something from Wageningen even.

I have a point, if it turns out you can stay, the idea is we have to protect our garden when it disappears.

for example, if this has to stop, and if they would say OK you can have a proper land, people size, you will lose half of your people, and that is break up point. you will see I did like this hunter-gatherer thing very much because it is a proper scientific term, I mean in this field, hunter-gatherer and also you got Fishman then you get...so hunter-gatherer is the bushman in South Africa they are hunter-gatherer, then you get the cattle then you get agriculture so these are some standards.

it is about capability. and the problems are, for the codes, it also has its limit, so for example, I see something on a lady maybe she is interested in our garden, but I also avoid people, do I have a right?

another example is in another area, I am a member of the church in the centre, and so you can eat there once every second week, in the salad, everyone can come in, the food cost you 3.50 euro, which is nothing, but everyone has to pay if someone comes in and said 'sorry, I am so poor, I don't have money.' then you don't deserve. it is not about people are poor or rich, it is about the management.

I agree because if you want to make it sustainable, it is necessary. maybe at the moment, you can be kind, that is good, but from a long term, you are doing some bad thing because if you continue doing this, this will not happen. then no people can get a food and maybe that to become much more expensive.



we have a similar thing like that, we ask people to bring food, so you have to bring in order to take.

How about the opinion of the visitors, they are not member, some people just passed by and want to come inside and enjoy? you said some people have to take responsibility for those visitors.

yeah, for example, people are here on Wednesday afternoon, the small children from elementary school, so we have several ladies and they take care of these little school girls and boys, and then use the garden think on the way from to school to home, play with the animals and after 1 hour they go again, and that is fine.

like a small kindergarten?

yes

but they are not the members?

they are not members

it is also interesting that you spoke with the stad landbow The coordinator Vorm, what is his opinion about urban farming nowadays? because for me it is really hard to get, I have no idea about the philosophy in this department. I don't know, they spend heaps of money at the urban farming at the living stad that greenhouse on top of the building, and it is closed. therefore, it is an interesting thing because as an organization at the time when they investing in this greenhouse, we were asked to join. and how that is possible for the municipality to build a greenhouse on top of the building and nobody realized how expensive. I don't understand this whole principle of urban farming. I found it is very interesting in terms of keeping the knowledge within the habitants. did you try yourself to grow potato, for example, it is a hard job, it is really a job, it is really hard, I had this one of the plots from mine from the beginning, I couldn't manage, I did not have the time to have all these attention I gave away. so, it is about knowledge, it is interesting if it is about the connection it is about its interesting, it is about showing people how to really grow.

Nice to have this interview, could you also provide me some names of the other farms?

Of course, I will show you.

5. (15.09.2019, 14.00-15.00)

Could you tell me something of the damaged greenhouse?

we don't know who burn it down, it could be something the person who lives here left standing candle or something, it could be put on fire? because other people would be jealous? because he

lived here, other homeless people? so it is a crazy story people want to rent out it, like OK, it is a greenhouse, it is for plants, it is not for human beings, so when it was burned down, and then Daniel thought we should make another greenhouse but we shouldn't make one you can live in.

because it is really big, and you know there homeless people live there? and you allow them to live there?

we allowed one person to live here, but then we built this one, and this is....actually in the wintertime some people slept here, but it is not a house this is not a house, it is a cupboard.

but for this one, you can't sleep in.

you can sleep there if you really want to, you pull up your knees and you could, if you are homeless it might be I don't know.

so you can let them just get in and sleep?

well, no, because we make the gates, we decided OK, there are just so many things going on, and like I don't mind people peeing here, I really don't, but you know sometimes you walk in and there is poop, on all the path, in front like you put one step in the garden and then oh someone pooped here, and I never had that behaviour here.

because the food are just growing here right?

yeah, it is not because we have like the horse manure in there someone who has three horses close to Rotterdam and he brings his manure to us, and we mix that with the grass, and even people manure you can also like compost it but you know you need to take some care and decided ok we are not gonna do it here, also because we are here for next 2-3 years so I got to build here.

here nice to hear that you also let the homeless people stay here, really kind of you.

that is not my decision, it is sort of...it is, of course, different to put the gate, because now it is closed that is only here for three months also.

but it is not homeless people who burnt this place, right?

I don't know who did if it was an accident, or it was on purpose, I don't know.

so after that, he just left.

yes, he got an apartment from the municipality they do care a bit.

before I think three months ago, I also came here and that time there is no gate.

yeah, I know.

I also asked one of the people and he said normally people just come in and even in the evening when some people pass by they saw some people even have a party here, drinking, the problem is throwing rubbish everywhere so...

once a month we have a potluck, so everyone brings something to eat and to drink and usually live music people play the guitar and we have like a homemade base here, and we make rhythm with our hand. that is once a month, every last Friday. So that is in two weeks time that with the harvest party.

So who can join this? is this only the members?

we don't have members, there is a talk with someone if they come here first, maybe after two or three times after he has been here, so like to know a bit more about someone but this is not any.... it is all volunteers who are here.

OK, so just let you know who he or she is?

Yeah, because of there that things as we do have like insurance, as something happens.

so you have insurance?

yes, we do, and the relationship with the municipality is OK, we got starts to subsid, when this garden started, four and half years ago. but this all done by volunteers so it is all....so we don't have members. I know some people better than other people, of course.

for example, I talk with you, and next time I can also come here like work here, so there is not very regular and membership?

No, it is simply free for everyone to join

but at least let you know who he is, like introduce themselves.

yes, but it is not like a garden society or something, it is garden communal vegetable garden, for everyone who wants to join. and take care of the garden.

how about the municipality, they said you can use this place permanently?

I know there was a before this there was a like sort of centre for homeless people, and they actually use this garden as well, but they can only stay here for five years and after that, they left, and then after that for two years, Daniel came and they talked with the municipality because they want to continue the garden. and they talked about that for two years. and they finally got permission. so it is all done, it is always commission from the municipality and also it is because

there is a....the municipality has plans for this region, they still negotiating and making plans and thinking it over and talking with people living around it. so upon till that time, was probably two or three years will keep this garden, somewhere I mean, I have a hope that we win, because I love this garden. it is beautiful. this is alike from the city centre five minutes walking away and here is the garden. and to me it is special, we will keep on going, I also work on Wednesdays at another garden, and here on Friday and Sunday. and I know there were talks with that if the new plan set might be because they are thinking about green and like gardening, there be room for another garden. but here they are gonna build a big flat.

are they going to look for a new place for you?

they could be in the whole plan because actually this whole area they are gonna redevelop, they want to redevelop and there will be room for another garden.

not here?

no, because the plan is that they gonna build a big apartment here.

so do you have any idea to make this garden somewhere...

no, but there will be room for green and might be room for another vegetable garden as well, so you know, I think that is it is more like we put so much effort in the soil and put up compost and to make it better because you know when they started it, mostly here are stones and sand, it is like things from old building, it was put here, so sort of cover it with 50 centimetres of clay on top of that and then put layer of compost and use that below that there are stones, sands. I think we still need to actually get digging it up and making it more.....getting the clay a bit higher and then because to make it more fruitful.

when will the new apartment happen in the future?

two or three years, they will start building here. or they start preparing it because in the plan they also like a roof over the trains, so they will extend this. and they have a sports field there. that sounds sort of ok. I just feel like I want my garden.

I can understand this because the same thing happened in Den Haag, I also interview one farming garden there, they said also they have this kind of land, but municipality said in the future two years, they will build a new house because maybe the housing shortage in Den Haag so also they are really sad and really persuade municipality to just keep this land for the gardening.

yeah, you know, this doesn't make money, and if you build on like apartment, there is a huge amount of money for the developers, for the housing so it is hard to fight that.

6. (15.09.2019, 16.00-18.00)

what is your role in this urban farm?

right, my role has been initiating and brought the proposal to the municipality. and we asked for permission to use the land. then we also make the project more resilient and dependent on two of us, so ask quite a lot of people around us we told them our plans and ask them do you want to join us, especially in the first two years. because it is kinda differenced able to garden. the first two years and years after that, the beginning you need to build up a lot so lots of contacts with the municipality and you need to go to tell the people around the garden about the project and get them involved and get things organized and after a few days, the people help us to start the garden and then during the first period also lots of people join us now we have quite a stable group to maintain the garden. yes so the role is initiating and that was also a to the coordinator as much as possible in a serving way. make sure everything goes smooth. it is more function in the group, it is not a position, it is more like a role.

what is the motivation you start this farm? why you start this farm?

for me personally, I start doing this kind of work because I want to reduce mile impact on the road and also try to bring more resilience at my own life and then the more I discovered how dependently our own current energy system and current agriculture system, that something happens to this system and they don't function they do, as they do now because that depends on the current economic structure that quite directly causes a lot of violence but also political things. during our life, you can make more able to grow my own food maybe and meet a lot of people to grow a strong community. so that is my reason why I start this. first, I really enjoy doing this, I really enjoy this work and I really enjoy feeding on amount people. there is a lot of benefits on the mental and physical health so all those reasons joint the initiative reasons over the years. and it is also really nice to work with kids, I never need them before but through the gardens, I also work with a lot of kids now and I really enjoy them. and it is an educational part that fun and really important.

normally how is the urban farm manage like how do you manage the farm with other people?

the informal meetings and garden every working moment and we start to break and drink coffee together we know everybody has a chance to share their opinions of this be done and also in the winter they organize meetings that are directly focused on evaluation last year what went well and what didn't go well, and doing adapts our methods on working or maybe our sowing schedule do we need to make a change in that in the winter.

everybody can get involved in this? there is no specific managing board?

no, you authe coordinatatorically affected people that are coming here more often and people that have a lot of knowledge or experience then they have another day officially have a bigger say but you know they can be more influential at the process.

but there is no official board?

no, no formal board. there is a foundation for this garden, that a legal firm to be able to get contact with the municipality, of course, the foundation as a board and foundation as a responsibility. if something happens in the garden like somebody stealing or there is violence goes on, that is very clearly the case and it is a responsibility to do something.

so also some people are in the foundation?

two more people are on the board, but one move to France and another one got a job.

so now you are the only one in charge of this?

yes, we have the final responsibility let's say. it happened one time in the past 6 years, there is somebody get to the garden work for a while and had some mental problems but didn't see it himself but it is very disrupted for the group process, so other people didn't come to the garden anymore because he was there, and he didn't want to get help, so then we have to step up one time and a few conversations with him clearly, said what was wrong, offered help. and he couldn't come to the garden anymore and that is only one time.

how about the volunteers, they all live nearby or just live everywhere?

most of them live quite nearby but not all of them, there are a few people that used to live nearby by now they moved far away, but they still come to the garden.

most of them just live nearby?

yes, but you also say there are other gardens in the north of the city, they are smaller and in between the houses, and then the people are all directly living around. this garden is a bit bigger, and it is not directly linked to houses around it, so people come from a great distance.

what activities you have normally on this farm? except growing food.

so we eat together and do the harvest together, also every month we have a campfire, every last Sunday of the month we have the campfire.

everybody can join this?

yes, most times are really busy here, and we started it about 2 years ago, we started having a campfire every month. at first, it was like 6-7 people, but after a while, it became really well known that we do this, and now every for the last several fire camp we can have 30-40 people, a lot of people bring their instruments and a lot of music.

so even like some people, they don't come here grow the food they can just join?

yes, exactly, they are not really attracted to do the gardening but they are attracted to do the campfire evening together and music.

How many people are there involved in this farm?

there are different definitions that people are involved and people come here every week. just a group of about ten people, and also a big group of people that come regularly but not every week, and there is also a group of people that comes here for the campfire for example and they have about 50 people, so people are involved in different ways. then you also have people like almost never come here but help in different ways, for example, keeping the website update or graphic designers. they are not gardening here but they come and visit the garden.

do you feel like if there are too many people, do you feel the pressure of that or you think it is OK not that?

no, the more the better, because it is always plenty of things to be done, it does make a difference for an experience.

I think the last two questions: one is what risks do you think during running the garden what risk you think will be?

right, well there is always unpredictability of your existence when you are in the dynamic context of the city. we had this garden for 6 years, but now we heard that in about 2 or 3 years it gonna be massive building here, we have to go, that is flat to the garden of course. luckily they can survive it we are talking with the people with the company which gonna build the building about how we can make a new garden in the new situation so that is a form for adopting a people existing of course. but it can be quite dense in the motivation of the people, right? we are working on this garden and then the garden will over. so another risk to the motivation could be if there is too much pressure from outside, for example, I was telling about it will happen too often that people sleep in the garden, and they demolish or destroy damage things in the process or there are people taking a shit in the vegetable field, it happens too much, then people will say I am not gonna garden here. so that is I think that is a risk it is also an adventure to garden in this context if there is a garden in the rural area, then it probably attracts less attention, but where there may be a lot of problems.

so face these risks, what did you do?

well, I also see it as a part of my role my function, to fix and clean if someone burnt something. so the other people in the garden can just keep gardening. so I see that is a function, and also we try to minimize as much as possible for example, before the garden is open you could just walk in but four months ago the problem is increasingly bigger, now we have the fence that helps a lot because fewer people just moved in also, for example, I made these boxes over there because before people just drive the car up here can park it in the weekends and after they went out they

came back and they ate here and they drop all the food on the ground and the rats coming and people and neighbourhood complaining.

you just said like the actions you took for the risks happening in this farm, what else?

so we made the gate so that the risk will not affect the motivation of people, and we can stimulate the positive views of the gardeners as much as possible so that will push sides the more negative views. so the more we attract people like the people who sit here, and the more this happens, the less chance you have that other person come here to smoke joints leave their stuff behind. and they keep leave a lot of food and attracts a lot of rats and other people don't use the place. so the more we can push those uses, the more we stimulate positive. that is why we put the gate.

after you negotiate with the municipality, what conditions they said as you have to follow so that you can use this place?

well, mainly the municipality wants to have a project that could last for a while, so they mainly want to see how our motivation was but also how big the group of people was and they were convinced enough, that it looks well organized. that is the main consideration for the municipality.

do you need to pay the renting fee?

no, we don't need to pay, so we have to have direct communication, and we have to make some agreement, like making sure no one will go over the fence to the rail track and we have a certain level of maintenance, keep up know these kind things that municipality can be sure. for them it is perfect that they see a group of people putting time and energy on this piece of land, so them it make sense to give the land away let's see so we can maintain that, so just want to prevent complains from neighborhood that is why they want to make sure the maintenance is on the certain level. and not too many things attached.